FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 JANUARY 1984

Tunisia

A National Defense Ministry statement broadcast by Tunis radio declared that a memorandum has been delivered to Libya concerning sabotage perpetrated by four persons operating from Libyan territory against a pipeline carrying oil from Algeria to the port of As-Sukhayrah. The saboteurs blew up the pipeline about 2 km inside Tunisia and then returned to Libyan territory leaving a blaze which Tunisian authorities discovered on the night of 7-8 January and extinguished the following afternoon, the statement said. The Algerian Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries subsequently confirmed that Algeria has suspended pumping oil through the pipeline because of the damage, according to Algiers radio.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi told TUNA that he does not rule out "the presence of foreign hands" in the recent disturbances in Tunisia. As for differences within the government, he admitted that those in authority are not all "united in a similar spirit and outlook," but dismissed "cheap rumors" that some members of the regime incited disturbances in order to secure the fall of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali. Earlier, in interviews with *LE MONDE* and *LE FIGARO*, Mzali said small commando groups manipulated and coordinated the recent disturbances. In response to a question, Mzali "did not deny" that some of those arrested in the south admitted they had been trained in Libyan camps.

Lebanon

Political Developments — The Riyadh meeting of Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ended on 9 January without an agreement on implementation of the Lebanese security plan, according to Beirut radio. The report said that the "main obstacle" was Khaddam's insistence on the cancellation of the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Meanwhile, Salim reacted to reports of his pessimism on the talks' chances of success with "surprise" and denied he had made any statements or met with any reporters, according to the radio, which later broadcast his characterization of the talks as "very useful." The radio also cited Khaddam's comment that the talks were "positive."

In a statement reported by SPA, Al-Faysal said the ministers had agreed to hold another round of talks during their forthcoming meetings in preparation for the fourth Islamic summit, which is scheduled to be held in Morocco. A Saudi official source said the three ministers set 15 January as the date they would resume talks, Beirut radio noted.

Israeli Position — In a speech to a youth movement meeting in Bat Yam reported by ITIM, Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated that, after its forces depart from the Ash-Shuf, Israel wants to continue its withdrawal, naming only the condition that "the proper security arrangements and the security of the Galilee are guaranteed." Arens added that Israel will evacuate southern Lebanon when "friendly local elements who will stand up to the commitments undertaken by the Lebanese Government" assume the IDF's current "controlling and policing" duties in the area. AFP reported Arens' remark that there are "good reasons to believe" Israel will be able to pull its troops back "closer to Israel."

Similarly, *THE JERUSALEM POST* explained that the "trend of Israeli thinking for some months" has been to consider withdrawing "without a simultaneous Syrian withdrawal" if effective security arrangements could be guaranteed. The paper cited an unnamed defense source who asserted that if a way to secure "Galilee" without the Syrians leaving all of Lebanon could be worked out, Israel would "go for it."

Security Situation — A French paratrooper was killed and two were wounded when their post in Beirut received RPG and machine gun fire, Beirut radio and AFP announced. The radio also reported an explosion in front of a clinic in the city and tank and artillery fire in the mountain regions. In the south, two IDF vehicles were fired on at the southern approach to Sidon, according to Jerusalem radio.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned to Tunis on 9 January after a brief visit to Algeria and talks with President Chadli Bendjedid, Tunis radio reported. A Palestinian source cited by Riyadh radio said 'Arafat would attend the scheduled Fatah Revolutionary Council meeting in Tunis.

Reporting on 'Arafat's meeting with Bendjedid, Algiers radio stressed Algeria's support for Palestinian unity and independent yphenationphenationdecisionmaking, but said the meeting was within the context of a "frank dialogue" to dispel "questions" raised by 'Arafat's recent visit to Cairo. Palestinian sources cited by INA linked 'Arafat's talks with Bendjedid with the forthcoming PNC meeting in Algiers.

The PLO Executive Committee has decided in principle to hold the PNC session in Algiers early in February, though this decision will be subject to approval by the PLO Central Council, the Amman paper *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* reported. During recent talks between Fatah officials and the delegation from Damascus headed by Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, the DFLP representative on the PLO Executive Committee, it was agreed to convene an expanded PLO Central Council meeting in the presence of the leaders of the PLO factions, the paper added.

Meanwhile, PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar denied Syrian reports that they signed the recent statement by 'Arafat's Palestinian opponents which denounced the PLO Executive Committee meetings in Tunis as illegal, Amman television reported.

Commenting on the PLO's plans against Israel, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stated in an interview with *AL-MAJALLAH* that the PLO should give top priority to providing "more scope for confrontation with the enemy" and to reorganizing its organization and methods of underground activity. The PLO should rely on "secret activity" and on "unknown but enthusiastic young people capable of carrying out covert action easily and effectively," he asserted.

Jordan

Prime Minister Mudar Badran will tender his government's resignation to King Husayn on 10 January, *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* announced, which confirms that the House of Representatives will hold its ordinary session beginning 12 January. Badran had announced the latter in a statement to journalists reported by Amman radio after the extraordinary Parliament session on 9 January. The paper added that "informed sources" expect the king to charge Interior Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat with forming a new government.

Gulf Affairs

The GCC foreign ministers held an extraordinary session in Riyadh on 9 January, discussing security in the region and the "sabotage conspiracy" to which Kuwait was subjected, SPA announced. The participants expressed "total backing" for Kuwait and placed "all their resources at its disposal," the agency added.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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'Arafat Visits Algiers, Returns to Tunis

Algiers Arrival Remarks

LD091308 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Algiers this morning. He was met at the airport by brother [name indistinct] Bushamah, member of the Central Committee and of its permanent secretariat, and Sadiq Zuwatin, [word indistinct] member of the Central Committee and in charge of the party's department of liberation movements.

'Arafat made a statement to national press journalists in which he said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] In the name of all revolutionaries and in the name of the Palestinian mujahidin, I express appreciation and gratitude for this committed revolutionary and fraternal stance with the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people, especially because this stance comes at the difficult times through which the Palestinian revolution is passing. There is an American-Israeli plot. The latest chapter of it is the tragedy that began on 4 June 1982 and continued until 20 December 1983, implementing the American decision to liquidate the Palestinian revolution. However, the Palestinian revolution is a giant, it is like the Phoenix: whenever they thought it was finished, it rose from the ashes, stronger and firmer. The darkest hours come before the dawn.[end recording]

Algiers Meetings Reported

JN091751 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1657 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Brothers, we have just received the following from our correspondent:

Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held a meeting in Algiers today with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, was present at the meeting on the Palestinian side. Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi was present on the Algerian side. Our correspondent says that the two sides discussed the recent developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas following the evacuation of the Palestinian revolution forces from northern Lebanon.

Brother Abu 'Ammar, accompanied by Brother Abu Jihad, arrived in Algiers this morning. They were received by (Sadiq Zawadi), the official in charge of the FLN's foreign relations; and (Kamal Abu Shama), a member of the FLN's Central Committee. They were also welcomed by Brother Abu al-'Izz, the PLO representative in Algeria.

Returns to Tunis

NC092208 Paris AFP in English 2126 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, Jan 9 (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned here tonight after a brief visit to Algiers to meet President Chadli Bendjedid. He immediately attended the opening of the Revolutionary Council of Fatah, the main guerrilla group in the PLO.

The 65-member council, the intermediate body between the Central Committee and the Palestinian National Congress, is preparing the next congress meeting and debating the organization's future since its expulsion from Lebanon.

Dialogue Committees Formed

JN101105 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, 10 Jan (INA) — An INA correspondent learned here today that the Fatah Central Committee has formed two committees under Yasir 'Arafat to reach a formula for dialogue with Egypt and Jordan.

A Palestinian source informed the INA correspondent that the committee for holding a dialogue with Egypt comprises Faruq Qaddumi and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], members of the Fatah Central Committee. The committee for holding a dialogue with Jordan comprises Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces and member of the Fatah Central Committee; and Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member.

It is worth noting that the Fatah Central Committee resumed its open meetings here under Yasir 'Arafat to discuss the developments of the Palestinian situation following the Palestinian fighters' departure from Tripoli, and the plan for future political and military action. On the other hand, the Fatah Revolutionary Council's meetings began here late last night under Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee chairman. The Revolutionary Council, which comprises 54 members and meets once a month, will discuss the situation in the Palestinian arena and determine the date, venue, and the agenda of the Fatah movement's general congress.

A responsible Palestinian source told an INA correspondent that the majority of the Revolutionary Council's members participated in the meetings although a quorum could be reached with only half of the Council's members. The Council is also expected to discuss developments in the Palestinian arena and the Fatah movement's future political plan. Palestinian sources told the INA correspondent that the Council will conclude its meetings today and issue a statement in this regard.

LE MONDE Views Fatah Leadership Problems, Prospects

PM081450 Paris LE MONDE in French 6 Jan 84 p 4

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "A Section of the Fatah Leadership Would Accept 'Breakup' of PLO"]

[Text] Tunis — After Fatah had restored a semblance of unity in its ranks with the publication of a long statement by its Central Committee on the evening of Wednesday, 4 January, the leaders of the main resistance organization immediately settled down to the task of saving the PLO from breaking up.

The Fedayeen federation now exists only in form. Six of its eight component movements have suspended their participation in the leadership bodies, particularly the Executive Committee, and have made it known that they would withdraw once and for all if PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is not fired. That would only leave Fatah and the Arab Liberation Front, a tiny pro-Iraqi group, within the Palestinian front. A second PLO grouping of the six dissident groups might then be formed in Damascus.

That is what was at stake in the negotiations which started on Wednesday evening between Fatah and the representatives of the three dissident movements who had arrived in Tunis from the Syrian capital that day: Mr 'Abd al-Halim Malluh, member of the Politburo of the PFLP (led by Mr Georges Habash), Mr Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, deputy secretary general of the DFLP (Led by Mr Hawatimah), and Mr Sulayman Najjar, member of the Palestinian Communist Party Politburo, will have to decide whether or not Mr 'Arafat's visit to President Mubarak in Cairo on 22 December constitutes a political about-face amounting to a "betrayal."

The three other organizations absent from Tunis, which are pro-Syrian or pro-Libyan — As-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-GeneralCommand (led by Mr Ahmad Jibril), and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (Led by Mr Samir Ghawshah) — have probably already decided to break away. Moreover the Fatah leadership thinks that it can no longer coexist with the movements which at the end of 1983 fought, weapon in hand, against the loyalists grouped around Mr 'Arafat in Tripoli.

"A bloodbath separates us," Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wizir], deputy commander in chief of the fedayeen, who led the resistance against the assaults of the Syrian army and its Palestinian allies, stated. He added: "They were worse than the Israelis. We suffered greater losses in Tripoli than during the Beirut siege in 1982. They killed around 1,000 of our fighters and wounded another 2,000. This is the first time in our history that Palestinians have massacred other Palestinians."

The declaration published on Wednesday, 4 January, by the Fatah Central Committee condemns those dissidents as "traitors" and "hired agents" of Syria and Libya; the latter are tarred with the same brush as Israel and the United States, whose combined action succeeded in hounding the loyalist fedayeen, first from Beirut and then from Tripoli.

Since the split with the three pro-Syrian and pro-Libyan groupings has thus been accomplished, the Fatah leadership is trying to win back the other three organizations which did not take part in the Tripoli fighting. Their return to the PLO fold is particularly desirable since they have the support of more than one-fourth of the members of the PNC (the resistance's "parliament") and perhaps more if opposition to Mr 'Arafat were to spread among Fatah supporters.

The statement issued by that organization's Central Committee was apparently designed to absorb the discontent aroused by the 'Arafat-Mubarak meeting in Cairo. "The PLO chairman's personal initiative is deemed contrary to the rules of 'collective leadership,' and disciplinary measures will be taken to ensure that such actions do not recur," the text states. The Fatah leaders will probably privately tell their interlocutors from Damascus that the PLO leadership has been criticized and given a stern warning.

Cairo's help

The latter, they explained in private, will no longer be able to do as he pleases. Two ad hoc commissions have been set up to accurately define the content and limits of the two lines of dialogue which the resistance intends to open with Egypt and Jordan. The decisions taken by those commissions will have to be ratified first by the PLO Executive Committee — in which the dissident organizations are represented — and then by the PNC. Thus it would be possible to avoid any "deviation." By way of an additional "guarantee," the Fatah Central Committee solemnly reiterated its opposition to the Camp David Agreements and the Reagan plan and specified that Mr 'Arafat has not made any political concession to President Mubarak.

So why did the PLO chairman go to Cairo? The Palestinian leader replied that he had no alternative in view of the multifaceted aid (there is talk of arms) that Egypt gave him during the Tripoli siege and especially during his withdrawal from Lebanon's northern capital. He stated that Egyptian warships had joined French ships to escort the ships to the Suez Canal. Better still, during a telephone conversation President Mubarak obtained an assurance from Israeli Prime Minister Shamir that the Jewish state would not hinder the PLO chairman's journey. Taking up Mr 'Arafat's explanations, the Fatah Central Committee welcomed Egypt's attitude — the only Arab country, it stressed, to have joined France in ensuring the safety of the fedayeen and their leader.

With regard to the content of his conversation with President Mubarak, Mr 'Arafat stated that he merely agreed to discuss a possible Franco-Egyptian diplomatic initiative aimed at promoting the settlement of the Near East conflict. The PLO chairman wants Paris and Cairo to revive the draft resolution which the two capitals had presented to the Security Council in August 1982 to bring about negotiations between Israel and the fedayeen federation.

This version of the Cairo visit is very unlikely to satisfy the representatives of the dissident organizations, which suspect Mr 'Arafat of wanting to join a "U.S. peace plan sponsored by Egypt and Jordan." They probably noticed that the Fatah Central Committee communique made no reference to the peace treaty signed between Cairo and Jerusalem. The dialogue with Egypt which Fatah hardly wants is clearly not dependent on repudiation of the Camp David agreements.

If this and other ambiguities are not dispelled during the present negotiations it will probably be impossible to avoid the breakup of the PLO. Some Fatah leaders say in private that such an eventuality would not be catastrophic despite everything. "It would release us from the constraints imposed on us by our partners," one of them told us in confidence, "and on our own we would implement a realistic strategy which is understood and approved of by at least 75 percent of Palestinians."

PLO Officials Deny Signing Damascus Statement

JN091911 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and PLO Executive Committee spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar have announced that they did not sign the statement published by Syrian media today attacking the meetings the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee held in Tunis. The Syrian media claimed a number of Palestinian officials in Damascus, including Al-Fahum and Abu Mayzar, signed the Statement, which considers these meetings to be illegitimate.

Baghdad PLO Radio Comment

JN091850 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1650 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum met yesterday with four members of the PLO Executive Committee and with groups of the agents, traitors, and tools. The conferees issued a statement saying that the meetings the legitimate Palestinian organizations are currently holding in Tunis are illegitimate. For the public's information, we say that the Tunis meetings were boycotted by the representatives of the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Actually, brothers, we do not wish to answer Al-Fahum's statement. However, we want to ask the following questions:

How can the meetings of 4 out of 14 PLO Executive Committee members be legitimate, while the meetings 10 members are holding in Tunis are illegitimate? Furthermore, Al-Fahum has no constitutional authority to chair any meeting except a PNC session. Al-Fahum still has neither a constitutional nor a legitimate representation outside this framework. He has no executive authority enabling him to call for the meeting of any legitimate Palestinian institution other than the PNC. That is a legislative authority. In other words, Al-Fahum disregarded all of the aforementioned constitutional steps and continued to talk about legitimacy. If legitimacy to Al-Fahum means what the Syrian regime is dictating to him, this will be something else — or else confirmation that Khalid al-Fahum is involved in the Syrian and Libyan regimes' plotting against Palestinian legitimacy. Just imagine the kind of legitimacy Khalid al-Fahum is speaking about in Damascus, which unfortunately has become a center for plotting against the Palestine issue and its valiant revolution. Just imagine this kind of legitimacy! Then join us in asking Al-Fahum: Why don't you come to Tunis and say what you have to say there? If you do not like Tunis, why don't you go to an Arab state and make whatever statements you like there? If you make such statements outside Damascus, your opinions can at least be discussed. You will not be accused of colluding with the traitors and the plotters against your own people's cause and the Palestinian blood shed in Al-Baddawi, Nahr al-Barid, Tripoli, and the Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus as a result of the shells of the traitors, plotters, and tools of the Syrian and Libyan regimes. It is foolish of you to stay in Damascus and talk about the absence of legitimacy.

'Arafat Reportedly Postpones Visit To Jordan

NC101039 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Jan (MENA) — Citing a ranking Palestinian source, Kuwait's newspaper *AL-WATAN* says today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has postponed his visit to Jordan until after the fourth Islamic Summit Conference, scheduled be held in Morocco on 16 January. The paper points out that 'Arafat will head the Palestinian delegation to the Islamic Summit.

PNC Reportedly To Meet Mid-February

JN061555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1318 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Tunis, 6 Jan (INA) — 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] and member of the PLO Executive Committee, has declared that the PNC will hold its ordinary session in the middle of next month in Algiers. In a statement to INA here today, Ahmad said the coming PNC session will define the horizons for the next phase. it will also discuss a report by the PLO Executive Committee on the developments witnessed by the Palestinian arena in the past phase, the plot which was hatched by the Syrian and Libyan regimes and all the circumstances that attended that plot, and future possibilities.

Ahmad said that in the middle of next week Yasir 'Arafat will make a tour covering Iraq, Algeria, the PDRY, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

PFLP Central Committee Meets Under Habash

JN101226 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, has announced that the front's Central Committee is currently holding a general extraordinary session under his chairmanship to discuss the serious developments in the Palestinian arena and that a statement containing very important decisions will be announced after the session.

Fatah's Khalaf Cited on Dialogue With Jordan

JN061540 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Palestinians will continue the dialogue with Jordan on the basis of the Arab Fes summit resolutions in order to establish an independent Palestinian state that may join a confederation with Jordan at a latter stage. This was said by Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, to the French weekly *JEUNE AFRIQUE. Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] described King* Husayn's stand during the recent Palestinian crisis as very good. He added that the Jordanian king has started to accept the idea of having sincere cooperation between his country and the PLO.

Fatah's Khalaf Wants Top Priority for Occupied Territory

PM091537 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Jan 84 p 17

[Report on interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf by Salih Qallab in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpts] In an interview with *AL-MAJALLAH*, Abu Iyad — Salah Khalaf — said: When we talk about the scope of future Palestinian action we must first point out that the aim of the plot throughout the Lebanese war and thereafter was to destroy the PLO completely. The failure to fulfill that objective made it necessary to activate certain forces within the resistance with the support of certain Arab states. Our first step should therefore be to abort and destroy the plot. That requires a clear political line and adherence to the PLO's phased program, which calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. These are the sentiments of the Palestinian fighters. To achieve these objectives we must identify the main prerequisites for what we want to do at this stage. I believe that the Americans want to destroy our previous programs in order to confuse and divide us and then swoop down on us to achieve what they failed to achieve through direct invasion.

After confirming our political line, we must turn to the occupied territory because it is the revolution's main base. We should give it top priority in our efforts so as to increase steadfastness and provide more scope for confrontation with the enemy. The occupied territory is evidently the revolution's main support. That is why our first task will be to reconsider the organizational structure and methods of underground activity there with a view to raising the level of our people's struggle in accordance with our aims at this stage. We must at the same time reorganize our forces which have been taken away from the scenes of confrontation to have them ready for combat at a moment's notice whenever the circumstances in the region change. We also must take a serious look at the organizational aspect and turn it into secret activity in most areas with reliance on unknown but enthusiastic young people capable of carrying out covert action easily and effectively.

Abu Iyad added: In view of the impossibility of direct confrontation with the enemy after the exodus from Lebanon, that organization in the occupied territory may be given military tasks to ensure continuity of the confrontation and clashes with Israel. In that case the open military presence abroad could be turned into bases for supply, organization, and finance. To preserve its position and maintain its activity, the revolution must reconsider its Arab relations with a view to strengthening its relations with the masses and ensuring that good relations with the regimes are not maintained at the expense of relations with the masses. Relations with the masses should not reach the point of interference in the domestic affairs of the Arab regimes.

In this connection we must concentrate on restoring Egypt's effective role in the Arab arena, after getting rid of Camp David. A revival of Egypt's previous role would reverse the current equations in the region.

As for Jordan we must begin a meaningful and frank dialogue on the basis of the Fes summit resolutions and the common aims and interests of the Palestinian and Jordanian people.

Abu Iyad also said: We must not drop Syria from our calculations. The Syrian people have supported and continue to support us. The same applies to Lebanon. The Palestinian revolution, having lost its base in that country, should not drop it from its calculations because our people are there and because there is a vital and friendly force with which we must develop our relations.

Salah Khalaf further said: Any move to change the revolution's past programs, especially its phased program which calls for an independent state and self-determination, would result in major catastrophes and setbacks. Forming a government in exile at this stage would be at the expense of the revolution's continuity because forming a government in exile is a step that should immediately precede the setting up of an independentPalestinian state.

'Arafat To Attend Palermo Seminar in Late March

AU091946 Rome ANSA in English 1935 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] (ANSA) Florence, January 9 — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, has accepted an invitation to come to Italy at the end of March to take part in an international seminar on the rights of the Palestinian people. The seminar will be held in Palermo and has been organized by the Sicilian universities, according to PLO spokesman Walid Gazal here today.

The brother of the PLO chairman, Fathi 'Arafat, is currently in Florence to attend another seminar entitled "Peace for the Middle East, a Palestinian and a Lebanese Question".

PLO sources here said that the 'Arafat visit may coincide with the official recognition of the organization on the part of the Italian Government.

Arab News Agencies Conference Opens in Kuwait

GF091305 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 8 Jan 84 p 4

[Excerpt] The president of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA), Dr. Sabir Falhut, yesterday opened the federation's 12th conference at Kuwait's Sheraton Hotel.

Falhut, who is also director general of the Syrian news agency, SANA, described the federation as "a modest accomplishment" on the Arab national level and a symbol of Arab unity.

He asked the delegates to observe one-minute's silence over the death of the Syrian information minister, Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad.

The president proposed two additions to the agenda: decreasing the tariff for communications between Arab agencies and the use of the Arab satellite in informational purposes.

FANA's secretary general, Farid 'Ayyar, read the report on the general secretariat's activities in the previous period. The conferees then discussed the financial report for 1983 and the 1984 draft budget.

The conference is expected to agree on setting up a headquarters from where Arab news would be dispatched to Asian agencies before debating the outcome of the Helsinki meeting with European agencies in preparation for continuing the dialogue.

The conferees will elect a president and members of the general secretariat for the coming term.

The director general and chairman of KUWAIT news agency, KUNA, Burjus Hammud al-Burjes called for consolidating the federation.

He urged members to maintain FANA's reputation and gains and to support the secretary general in implementing the goals and carrying out the march of the federation.

The conference is attended by director general of Arab news agencies in addition to the secretary general and director of the information department of the Arab League, Mahmud at-Turayqi.

The MOROCCAN AGENCE PRESSE (MAP) regretted inability to attend, and assigned the second secretary at the embassy in Kuwait, Adel Basha, to represent the agency.

The Tunisian agency did not respond to invitations. The membership of the Egyptian MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) has been suspended since 1979 following Egypt's peace accord with Israel.

The conferees endorsed a proposal calling for holding the next Arab and European news agencies session in Paris this year and directed the Arab news offices in Europe to consider setting up centers for exchanging news between the two sides.

KUNA's chairman and director general expressed readiness to put the KUNA offices in Europe at the service of the federation.

Deputy director of the Qatari news agency, Ahmad al-Hamar, called for exploring avenues for dispatching Arab news to the European media after negotiating with European agencies.

Director of the UAE news agency, Dr. Ibrahim al-'Abid, seconded the proposal and called for creation of joint Euro-Arab news centers. Director of the Jordanian news agency, Jawad Maraqah proposed the formation of a four-member committee from FANA to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the Arab agencies' endeavor in cooperation with the secretary general.

The conference passed a recommendation thanking the East German News Agency (ADN) for its initiatives and cooperation with the federation and for inviting Arab journalists to attend training courses.

Arab People's Conference To Meet 15-18 Jan

JN091809 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli — 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Arab People's Conference, asserted that it has been decided that the conference's Secretariat General will meet 15-18 January in Tripoli in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent in Tripoli today, Al-Hamidi said the session will discuss Arab developments in light of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, and the Arab liberation movements' responsibilities in confronting the chain of treason and capitulation on the path of the Camp David accords. The session will also discuss creating a new situation in order to seize the pan-Arab initiative on the path of liberation and unity through the armed struggle, which is the only way to confront the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary onslaught against the Arab nation.

Al-Hamidi added that the convening of the session is aimed at mobilizing the Arab masses to liberate Palestine and maintain the pan-Arab existence threatened by the U.S.-Israeli alliance and aggression. Al-Hamidi concluded his statement by saying that, in light of the session's importance, the participating delegations will attend at the leadership level.

Israeli Military Patrol Attacked in Nabulus

JN091728 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are further escalating their daring operations against the occupation forces, despite the enemy's strict security measures and precautions. This reconfirms the revolution's ability to continue its military strikes on the Zionist enemy wherever it is.

Our revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland have carried out a daring attack on a Zionist military patrol in Nabulus. The attack, which was carried out with incendiary bombs, killed or wounded several enemy soldiers. Admitting this daring operation, a Zionist spokesman refrained from disclosing its forces' losses. He added that enemy forces cordoned off the area of the attack and mopped it up in order to search for our revolutionaries, who managed to return safely to their base. The occupation forces then launched an arbitrary arrest campaign among the Palestinian citizens in the area under the pretext of their being connected with the attack.

Two Israeli Soldiers Killed in S. Lebanon Attacks

JN091801 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] One Zionist soldier was killed and two others were wounded when a group of the Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist resistance attacked a Zionist military convoy north of An-Nabatiyah. The attackers used machineguns and rockets in their attack. Another Zionist soldier was killed and a number of his companions were wounded when another group of the Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist resistance attacked a Zionist military patrol in the heart of Tyre, in occupied southern Lebanon.

Correction to PLO Radio on Release of U.S. Pilot

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Baghdad PLO Radio on Release of U.S. Pilot"published in the 5 JanuaryMiddle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT*, page A 3, column one, second paragraph, line thirteen:

...interfere in the security for Galilee [fi harb salamat al jalil] operation in 1982...(rewording, providing vernacular)

Kuwaiti Minister Denies Quotas To Be Considered

LD101125 Kuwait KUNA in English 1011 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 10 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Oil and Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah was quoted here Tuesday as ruling out the possibility of holding an extraordinary OPEC meeting to review production quotas in the near future.

"I do not believe there is readiness to go through this process again in the new future," Al-Khalifah told local daily *Al-QABAS*.

Al-QABAS recalled Venezuelan energy minister, expected to arrive here within two days, has earlier said a meeting would be held within the first quarter of this year to review production quotas of members of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries.

"To be rational, any reduction in the present quotas should come about through a (certain) percentage to be applied equally on everybody according to their present production share. Any increase affecting these quotas should likewise be decided the same way for all until increases in demand becomes greater than the ability of some countries to cope with by expanding their share," Al-Khalifah noted.

He emphasized that "any other principle (to be applied in revising the quota system) would merely open wounds that would readily make any afterwards agreement very difficult to achieve."

Venezuelan Cited on Oil Price, Nigeria

LD101140 Vienna OPECNA in English 1052 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Dec. 84 (OPECNA) — Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, who is expected to take over the oil portfolio when the new Venezuelan Government is sworn in on 2 February, believes the present OPEC price structure can be maintained.

He also expressed satisfaction with the assurances by the new Nigerian leadership that the country will continue to be an active member of OPEC and abide by its charter and decisions.

Hernandez who is on a "get-acquainted" tour of OPEC countries has already held detailed discussions with Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ahmad Zaki Yamani and will also visit Qatar, Libya, Algeria and Kuwait, where on Wednesday he will hold talks with 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, minister of oil.

He will also attend the next meeting of the OPEC ministerial monitoring committee in Vienna on 10 February.

GULF AFFAIRS

Foreign Ministers Conference Closes in Riyadh

LD091943 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1842 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Jan (SPA) — This evening the GCC foreign ministers concluded the final session of their conference at the headquarters of the council's headquarters in Riyadh.

They declared in a statement issued at the end of their sixth extraordinary session this evening that the security in the region was reviewed in the light of recent developments. In their statement, the ministers affirmed the common security of the states of the council and the fact that their stability and unity of destiny are linked. In their session, the ministers viewed the dimensions of the sabotage conspiracy to which the State of Kuwait has been subjected and whose target was its security, sovereignty, constitutional institutions, and economic establishments. It was also aimed at the security of the Gulf and its stability and the obstruction of its will.

The conference expressed their total backing to the State of Kuwait and the placing of all their resources at its disposal. They declared their determination to confront this conspiracy collectively. The statement added that the foreign ministers of the council examined the current Arab situation and reaffirmed their determination to shoulder their responsibility to work for the removal of Arab differences and provide solidarity among the Arab states in accordance with the basic statue of the GCC.

Fahd Receives GCC Ministers

LD091549 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Jan (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at his office in the royal court today the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) who are currently holding an extraordinary session in Riyadh.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Amir al-Sa'ud Al-Faysal the foreign minister, and by Secretary General of the GCC 'Abdallah Bisharah.

KUWAIT

Official Returns From GCC Session in Riyadh

LD101109 Kuwait KUNA in English 1006 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 10 (KUNA) — Kuwait deputy premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad arrived here from Riyadh late last night after participating in meetings of the extraordinary session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Speaking to KUNA upon his arrival, Shaykh Sabah expressed satisfaction at the meetings' outcome and praised the full support the GCC states gave to Kuwait, its constitutional institutions and economic installations after they took note of the scope of the subversive plot which targeted Kuwait last month. He was referring to the criminal bombings of the U.S. and French embassies and various Kuwaiti installations in Kuwait on December 12.

The chief Kuwait diplomat lauded the patronage extended to the foreign ministers during their meeting with Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz who expressed support for Gulf and pan-Arab causes.

Shaykh Sabah and the accompanying delegation were received at the airport by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Rumib 'Abd al-'Aziz Al-Rashid, the information ministry undersecretary, Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad and chairman and director general of KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, Barges Hamud al-Barges.

Minister on 'Open Door' Policy, Security

GF091331 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 8 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Kuwait's interior minister has warned of the possibility of more bombings and has said that the "open door" policy for expatriates should be reconsidered.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, in an interview with the Interior Ministry magazine, *AD-DAKHILIYAH*, said that it was "not improbable" that the Kuwait could face more blasts, similar to those which rocked the country last month.

But he warned that the security authorities would be on the alert for anyone trying to disturb the stability and security of the country.

Kuwait had been the target of the blasts because of its open door policy, he said. This should be reviewed in the light of the security situation, provided economic progress was not hindered by any changes.

Shaykh Nawwaf supported the idea of his ministry being given full authority to control the entry of expatriates to ensure no-one was allowed into the country without fulfilling all requirements.

A committee has been set up to study the possibility of formulating a new population policy, with restrictions on foreign workers, he said.

He said the quantities and types of arms seized from the suspects in the December bombings pointed to the fact that foreign forces were behind the explosions.

Shaykh Nawwaf praised the standard of the security forces and police in Kuwait, which he said had been shown to be higher than that of many developed countries.

They were still not perfect, but the ministry would continue its efforts to supply the latest equipment and employ highly qualified staff.

Shaykh Nawwaf said the security procedures adopted after the bombings had been routine, but said these measures would be

strengthened as the security of the country and its citizens were of utmost importance.

He praised the cooperation of the citizens and expatriates during the investigations into the blasts, and said he hoped this would be a trend which would be continued.

Statements made by H.H. the amir and H.H. the crown prince had encouraged the security forces to track down the suspects he added.

Shaykh Nawwaf also called for major national establishments in Kuwait to develop internal security systems and to employ their own security staff who could cooperate with the police.

PRC Delegation Concludes Visit 9 January

LD091728 Kuwait KUNA in English 1531 GMT 9 Jan 84

[By Hasan as-Sayegh]

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 9 (KUNA) — A Chinese parliamentary delegation concluded an eight-day visit to Kuwait Monday during which they met with H.H. the amir, H.H. the crown prince and a number of government officials, as well as Kuwaiti deputies.

The delegation head who is chairman of the standing committee in the People's National Congress, Wang Renzhong, told KUNA upon departure that the visit contributed to bolstering the friendly relations between Kuwait and China.

OMAN

Minister Receives Kuwaiti Counterpart's Message

GF091327 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] His Excellency Badr Ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib, minister of interior, today received a written message from His Excellency Shaykh Nawwaf al-Jabir, his Kuwaiti counterpart, dealing with the existing relations between the two fraternal countries. The message was conveyed to Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn 'Ali al-Qatabi, under secretary at the Ministry of Interior, by 'Abd al-Wahab al-Mujran, Kuwaiti interior minister's envoy, during their meeting this morning which was attended by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wahab al-'Uthman, Kuwaiti ambassador to the Sultanate.

PDRY

Iranian Official Meets With President

GF091651 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA — The deputy for international and economic affairs of the Iran Foreign Ministry, Hoseyn Kazampur Ardabili, in a meeting with the president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, in Aden Sunday [day as received] discussed international issues and matters of mutual interest.

Furthermore, Kazempur Ardabili presented the message of President 'Ali Khamene'i to Nasir Muhammad and also explained the reasons behind decision of the Islamic Republic of Iran for boycotting the forthcoming summit meeting of the Islamic Conference Organisation to open in Casablanca, Morrocco, this month.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting with the foreign affairs minister of the PDRY, 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali on Sunday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry official, discussed bilateral relations and regional issues.

The Iranian official left Tehran for Turkey Jan. 4, from which he traveled to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

YSP Central Committee Begins 11th Session

GF091342 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The YSP Central Committee began its 11th ordinary session this morning under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers. During this session the Central Committee of the party will review a number of important issues, among which are the assessment report of the party leadership plans during 1983 and its plans for the current year 1984, the plan of the fourth year of the second 5-year plan for socioeconomic development, and the development budget of the new financial year 1984. The Central Committee will discuss a comprehensive political report presented by the Political Bureau of the party on the development of the political events in the region, the Arab and international situation, and the party's activity in foreign policy between the two sessions. The meeting held by the Central Committee this morning discussed with great interest the political report presented by the Political Bureau and assessed recent incidents in the Arab region.

The Central Committee will continue the work of its 11th session to complete the discussion of the political report and other issues on its agenda.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Ministers' Meeting Ends Without Agreement

NC092008 Paris AFP in English 1916 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Jan 9 (AFP) — The foreign ministers of Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria today failed to reach an agreement on a peace plan for Beirut and the mountains east and south of the Lebanese capital, but decided to talk again on Sunday during the Islamic foreign ministers' meeting in Rabat.

But an authoritative Saudi source said the security plan would be made public in 48 hours.

Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said after the 24-hour meeting that it was vital to continue "the dialogue and concertation [as received] to reach an agreement", adding that the talks had been "positive".

A Saudi authoritative source said the talks involving Mr Khaddam, Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia had been "positive and constructive".

No details were available on the possible resumption of the Lebanese National Reconciliation conference, grouping the rival Lebanese factions and the Lebanese authorities. The conference has been adjourned since the beginning of November, and has notably stalled over the May 17 agreement signed by Israel and Lebanon.

Prince Faysal Makes Statement

LD091616 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Jan (SPA) — The foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, made the following statement in answer to an SPA question on what had been achieved during the meetings of the Saudi, Syrian and Lebanese foreign ministers thatended in Riyadh today.

The ministers studied the difficult circumstances through which sister Lebanon is going and reviewed the situation there from all aspects, as well as the developments which had occurred since their previous meeting in Damascus. Agreement was reached that the ministers would submit to their governments the results which they had achieved concerning the issues on the agenda.

They also agreed to hold another round of talks during their meetings in relation to the fourth Islamic summit, to be held in sister Morocco, in order to make available the means to secure the security and stability to which Lebanon aspires and which we wish for it.

Fahd Receives Lebanese Minister

LD091428 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Jan (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, today received in his office at the royal court in Al-Ma'dar, Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, who is currently visiting the Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by His Royah Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; and Minister of Information 'Ali ash-Sha'ir.

Council of Ministers Discuss Mideast Events

LD092139 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Riyadh 9 Jan (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers this evening.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali ash-Sha'ir told SPA and TV reporters that at the beginning of the meeting the council was briefed on the latest developments and the events in the Arab region in the course of the week. The council also heard a brief summary of the most important news and information carried by the news media on Lebanon and the Palestinian talks in Tunis.

The information minister said that in the light of this,the king spoke to the council on how he views certain Arab and Islamic issues which occupy a prominent place at the present time. The king then acquainted the council with the results of the talks and the contacts carried out by the government during the last 2 days in the Kingdom, and with some Arab capitals about the events of the hour.

He also discussed what will be necessary to prepare a suitable climate for the convening of the forthcoming Islamic summit conference in Morocco,including the mobilization of all possible resources to ensure optimum levels of success for the conference and achieve its good objectives, foremost of which is the consolidation and strengthening of the foundations of solidarity, cooperation and fraternity among the fraternal Islamic states and the intensification of efforts for the establishment of security and justice and for spreading affection and peace to every inch of the Arab and Islamic homelands.

YAR

Foreign Minister Leaves for ICO Meeting

GF091337 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1325 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] San'a', 9 Jan (WAKH) — YAR Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi has left San'a' for Casablanca to attend the meetings of the Islamic foreign ministers which will precede the fourth ICO summit.

Al-Asbahi said the foreign ministers will discuss a number of issues pertaining to the preparations for the fourth ICO summit, which will discuss the Palestinian cause, the Iraqi-Iranian war, and putting forward a unified strategy to continue efforts for the Jerusalem cause.

More Reportage on UK's Howe's Visit

Meets Abu Ghazalah 9 Jan

NC091258 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, this morning received in his office British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Howe. The Egyptian ambassador in London, the British ambassador in Cairo, and the British defense attache attended the meeting.

Discusses Mideast, Relations With 'Ali

NC091412 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1252 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA) — The Egyptian-British talks began today at the Foreign Ministry between Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Howe.

At the beginning of the meeting, a general review was made of the international issues of interest to the two countries, particularly the current situation in the Middle East.

The talks began with a brief tete-a-tete between 'Ali and Howe, who were then joined by members of the two delegations. The Egyptian side comprised Ambassadors 'Umran ash-Shafi'i and Salah Basyuni, assistants to the foreign minister; Nuhad al-'Asqalani, director of the Western Europe Department; Mukhlis Jubbah, director of the Economic Department; 'Ali Shawqi al-Hadidi, director of the Cultural Department; Hasan Abu Sa'dah, the Egyptian ambassador in London; and 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Raydi, director of the Organizations Department. The British side comprised members of the delegation accompanying Geoffrey Howe and British Ambassador in Cairo Michael Wir.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali stated after the Egyptian-British session of talks, which lasted approximately 2 hours, that the talks dealt with the Middle East situation, particularly the Palestinian problem, and Egypt's views on it, especially in light of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, the meeting of the Jordanian Parliament, and the recent Fatah organization's statement.

'Ali said the talks also dealt with future moves regarding a Middle East settlement and Egypt's views in this regard. He also said they reviewed the situation with regard to the Lebanese problem, the way to solve the problem, and the priorities of the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon, particularly from the Egyptian point of view.

'Ali said there was no difference in the Egyptian and British views on these issues. He added the talks had also dealt with the Iraqi-Iranian war, its future possibilities, and the possibilities for activity in a possible mediation during 1984. He said there also was an agreement of views regarding this issue between the two countries.

'Ali said they also reviewed Egyptian-British relations in all spheres, particularly the economic and cultural ones. In this regard he pointed out that growth in trade relations between the two countries had been noted. The volume of bilateral trade has reached 750 million pounds sterling. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added that the two countries expressed their desire to expand trade and cultural relations.

He said there were no problems between the two countries in the cooperation sphere.

In reply to a question, 'Ali said there was cooperation between Egypt and Britain in the armament sphere. This is a longstanding cooperation. He pointed out that it was natural that the talks between Mr Geoffrey Howe and Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah should deal with those relations.

British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Howe stated that during today's session of talks they discussed current problems in the Middle East an area in which Britain has great interest.

He said this is his first visit to the area. He said the intent of the visit is not to reach definite results, but to survey the situation and exchange views with officials.

In reply to a question, Howe said he cannot claim that a solution to the problems of the area were reached during today's talks. He added: What happened was the two sides discussed aspects of these problems as well as the results of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt and talks there as well as the meeting of the Jordanian Parliament. He added that his country regards those steps as positive factors upon which it is possible to build.

The British secretary said Britain is interested in achieving peace and stability in the region, adding that this is the main reason for the visit. He said he was in contact with the EEC members in this regard before he started his tour.

Asked whether he will meet with Palestinian personalities, Howe said that such a meeting is not scheduled during his visit.

It has been learned that the talks also dealt with Britain's participation in Egypt's 5-year plan projects and with the next meeting of the joint Egyptian-British committee in May in London.

Exchange Luncheon Speeches

NC091644 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has denounced Israel's illegitimate and illegal practices in the occupied Arab territory and has affirmed that Egypt is working to break the stalemate in the peace march in the area. In a speech during a luncheon he gave today in honor of Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation, 'Ali referred to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, saying that from our viewpoint it was a positive step on the road to peace and a boost for the moderate voices.

'Ali affirmed the need for a direct and frank dialogue among the parties concerned with the peace process to achieve a just peace in the area.

In his speech, 'Ali expressed the hope that a quick solution to the Lebanese problem would be found, one that would ensure the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon, above all the Israeli forces, and achieve national unity and a return of sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

'Ali called for more efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian war which is still continuing despite the various initiatives.

'Ali declared that in its capacity as a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement, Egypt shares Britain's concern over the increasing tension in East-West relations. He also praised Britain's efforts to achieve world peace and security.

'Ali said Egypt appreciates Britain's desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the area. It also appreciates Britain's efforts within the EEC to adopt a common European stand in this connection.

'Ali praised the joint Egyptian-British cooperation and understanding vis-a-vis the Middle East, bilateral relations, and various international issues.

He said the visit of the British secretary of state for foreign affairs comes at a time when tension still prevails in the area and when Israel persists in its intransigence, which has become an obstacle to all efforts and initiatives to reach a peaceful settlement.

'Ali affirmed that peace and stability in Europe is linked to peace in the Middle East. He said Europe is called upon to make further efforts to play a vital role complementing the current efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Howe said in a speech he delivered during the luncheon that the Palestinian problem is the basis of the Middle East problem. He said there should be compromise solutions and mutual concessions in order to initiate a dialogue and achieve a comprehensive and just settlement in the area. The British foreign secretary expressed his country's hope for developing its relations with Egypt and described those relations as having reached an advanced stage upon which to build.

Meets Muhyi ad-Din 9 Jan

NC092011 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din this evening received in his office Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation. There was an exchange of views during the meeting on the need to find a just and permanent solution to the Palestinian issue, as well as the situation in Lebanon and Middle East, and ways of developing Egyptian-British relations in the investment, trade, and technical fields. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Ambassador to Britain Hasan Abu Sa'dah.

Meets Mubarak 10 Jan

NC100829 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation at Al-Qubbah Palace. Attending the meeting were Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Egyptian Ambassador in London Hasan Abu Sa'dah, and British Ambassador in Cairo Michael Weir.

Statement on Visit

NC101036 Cairo MENA in English 1025 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, Jan 10 (MENA) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said his current visit to Egypt is of great importance as it afforded him the opportunity to hold talks with President Husni Mubarak, with Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, and with the ministers of foreign affairs and defence.

In statements to newsmen following his 90-minute meeting this morning with the president, Howe said this is his first tour of the Middle East and Egypt, the first leg of his tour. Britain, like the rest of the EEC countries, is looking forward to realising progress in quest of peace and stability in the region, he added. Britain is also eager to adopt any step that would help realise this objective, Howe said.

The British official said it is important that there should be an opportunity to discuss this matter with the Egyptian Government in the light of the recent crucial meeting between President Mubarak and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Referring to the convening yesterday of the Jordanian Parliament and several other changes in the area, Howe said it is useful to hold talks at this phase. He said he will meet with officials in Saudi Arabia and later on in Syria before returning to London to meet with his European colleagues in Stockholm next week.

He also expressed appreciation for the welcome given him by Egyptian officials.

Howe said he is looking forward to gather more information through his talks with representatives of all countries concerned with the conflict, to find out the best means of moving towards realising peace and stability in the Mideast. The project submitted by Egypt and France to the United Nations is one of the means to tackle the problem laid on the negotiating table, Howe said. On the recent statement by Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir inviting Jordan to join the negotiations within the framework of Camp David, Howe said such a statement has been made recently and it is normal that it should be studied, adding that much has happened since Camp David, and now attention is focused on whatcould be possibly achieved from the ground on which we stand.

Replying to the same enquiry, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said there are many options now, adding that in the views of moderate Arab countries, Jordan has

approved U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative, while there are Palestinians committed to the Fes summit resolutions. A certain formula could be achieved and not a new initiative, a formula that would allow all parties to sit at the negotiating table, Hasan 'Ali added.

On whether there is a new opportunity to activate the peace process in the Mideast and if Howe's visits would help achieve this goal, Hasan 'Ali said the first step is always contingent on Israel's attitude in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It also depends on the dialogue between the PLO and Jordan, Hasan 'Ali said.

Hasan 'Ali stressed the importance of Howe's visit, as Britain is a member of the European Economic Community while it contributes to peace efforts in the Mideast.

In a final question to Howe on whether he could talk directly about Britain's stance as regards the U.S. recognition of the PLO, the British official said such a matter concerned the United States itself, adding that its stance is as clear, namely, that the Palestinians and the organisation should participate or be connected with the possibilities of reaching a settlement.

Howe said that one way or another there is certainly need to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self determination.

This is part of the question, but on the other hand, it is important that the PLO should make a move towards recognizing the legitimacy of the State of Israel, and towards acknowledging the importance and legitimacy of achieving progress through peaceful means and not other means, he said.

Departs for Saudi Arabia

NC101025 Cairo MENA in English 1015 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, Jan 10 (MENA) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe left today for Saudi Arabia winding up a two-day visit to Egypt within the context of a tour which also includes Syria. Howe has held talks with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali on the Mideast situation, the Palestinian cause, and its developments in the coming stage.

Hasan 'Ali saw off the British official at the airport. Howe was received by President Husni Mubarak earlier today.

'Ali, Irish Foreign Minister Discuss Mideast

NC081810 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening met with Irish Foreign Minister Peter Barry, who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in the Middle East, the efforts to achieve peace, and the bilateral relations between the two countries. The Irish visitor arrived in Cairo about a week ago on a private 10-day visit to Egypt.

Reportage on Czechoslovakia's Svoboda's Visit

Arrives in Cairo 7 Jan

NC072030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA) — Stanislav Svoboda, Czechoslovak deputy minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo tonight on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, the Czechoslovak official will meet with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs; Ambassador Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi; and several other officials. They will discuss promoting bilateral relations in various domains, particularly those of economy and trade.

The Czechoslovak official was welcomed by Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi and Novak Slavomir, Czechoslovak ambassador to Cairo.

Holds Talks With 'Ali

NC081316 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today held a meeting with Stanislav Svoboda, deputy foreign minister of Czechoslovakia. They reviewed current international issues during the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, 'Ali explained the latest developments in the Middle East situation and Egypt's efforts to solve the Lebanese and Palestinian problems.

The Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister explained his country's position on the Middle East crisis. The two also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations.

Meets Assembly Committee Chairman

NC081419 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the People's Assembly, today received Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Stanislav Svoboda, who is currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Czechoslovak ambassador in Cairo, the discussion dealt with the Middle East problem, particularly the situation in Lebanon, and ways to strengthen bilateral relations on all levels.

Mr Svoboda arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Meets Ministry Official

NC091739 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, assistant foreign minister, today held a meeting with Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister Stanislav Svoboda, who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, a general review was made of the various international issues of common interest, particularly the situation in the Middle East, the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese problem, and the Iraqi-Iranian war. Ambassador Badawi explained Egypt's views and positionson those problems and its efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the area and to solve the Palestinian issue. The discussion also dealt with the two countries' bilateral relations and the cooperation between them in various fields, particularly the economic and technical ones.

Shindi Receives CSSR Deputy Trade Minister

NC081635 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1547 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA) — Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of international investment and cooperation, today received Jaroslav Jakubec, Czechoslovak deputy minister of foreign trade, and the delegation accompanying him who are currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting the discussion dealt with ways to strengthen bilateral relations in the spheres of economic, technical, and financial cooperation and the establishment of joint projects between the two countries.

The talks are part of the preparations for the talks scheduledto be held in Prague within the next few months with the Czechoslovak trade minister regarding the signing of an economic cooperation agreement between the two countries.

More Reaction to Israeli Occupation Policies

'Ali UN Message Reported

NC092248 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] United Nations, 9 Jan (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed regret over the recent repressive Israeli practices in the occupied West Bank. In a message addressed to the president of the UN Security Council and distributed today as a UN document, 'Ali said the ongoing attempts in the Israeli Knesset to extend the applicability of the emergency regulations to the West Bank and Gaza Strip constitute a serious violation of UN Security Council Resolution No 242, as well as the framework for peace in the Middle east signed in September 1978.

'Ali also affirmed that these Israeli attempts constitute a serious violation of the UN Charter, the principles of international law, the Geneva laws of 1949, and the 1907 Hague agreement.

In his message 'Ali also emphasized that Egypt considers these Israeli attempts as possibly having serious repercussions on the situation in the Middle East. He noted that these attempts adversely affect the momentum to promote a comprehensive, just, and permanent settlement in the Middle East and Egyptian efforts to achieve a just settlement of the Palestinian issue.

'Ali said Egypt views with gravity and great regret the recently reported demolition of certain houses on the West Bank by the Israeli authorities, as well as statements attributed to Israeli officials on plans for further demolition of houses located on certain main roads in some West Bank areas, and in which they welcomed the call for the deportation of the Palestinians to Jordan.

Concluding his message, 'Ali affirmed that all such repressive measures by the Israeli authorities can only further complicate the situation in the Middle East and disrupt the peace efforts, especially in regard to the occupied Arab territory.

Commentary Raps Israeli Actions

NC071553 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jan 84

['Atif al-Ghamri commentary]

[Text] Israel is continuing to push ahead in a course contradictory to peace. It has imposed martial law and emergency measures on the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while exempting Israelis living in the same areas from those laws and measures.

To have a stable peace you must have a peace which is comprehensive and guarantees the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Such a peace requires confidence-building measures between the Israelis and Palestinians. However, this peace is now being emptied of all the fundamental components necessary to give it its meaning and which are contained in treaties and documents. Such a peace is based on international resolutions and accords which Israel accepted when it signed the peace accords.

The Israeli practice of robbing the peace of its content continued systematically. They started by changing the letter and spirit of what Palestinian autonomy means when they interpreted it as an autonomy of the population without the land. Israel then proceeded with establishing settlements in the occupied territories to prevent any real implementation of Palestinian self-determination.

In the same vein, Israel conducted genocidal raids against the Palestinians in Lebanon to torpedo the idea of building confidence between the two sides. Israel also practiced several oppressive measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Those measures included blowing up houses, curtailing employment for the educated [Palestinians], and the continued provocation against Palestinians by the so-called extremist [Jewish] groups. That the Israeli authorities condone these groups, however, casts doubt on those authorities themselves. All these measures are meant to make life unbearable for the Palestinian inhabitants so that they are forced to migrate in the end. When the Palestinians leave the land, the settlers will thus become a majority instead of minority.

The Israeli practices have reached their height with the recent attempts which are continuing in the Knesset to apply the emergency laws to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Meanwhile, the Israeli laws, which presently are in effect, will thus be restricted to the Israelis living in the occupied territories. This is a matter which involves racial discrimination and blatantly violates the Geneva treaty on the occupied territories, the UN Charter, UN Security Council Resolution No 242,and the peace accords.

All this indicates Israel still has more to add to what it started in the way of imposing its occupation on the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in halting the peace process.

This is a matter which calls on all the world parties interested in peace and stability in the Middle East to assume their responsibilities in preventing these continuous threats to peace.

Reportage on Recent Ghali Statements on Situation

AL-MAJALLAH Interview

NC051727 Cairo MENA in English 1625 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] London, 5 (MENA) — Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali affirmed that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo represents a start for a peace strategy instead of a confrontation strategy.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic magazine *AL-MAJALLAH*, Dr Ghali said that 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli is a start for setting up a new strategy for the Palestine Liberation Organisation based on cooperation, dialogue, and increased contacts with the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as they represent the virtual centre of power of the Palestinian issue for their presence on the occupied lands.

Dr Ghali said that Egypt has no objection to joining negotiations between King Husayn of Jordan and 'Arafat if the suitable atmosphere were provided.

As for the American-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement, Dr Ghali said that the agreement would not be a restriction on the United States' movement, indicating that in case of a move by the Arabs and the Palestinians, the American side would move and play its role which it pledged when it forwarded Reagan's peace plan.

On Post Mubarak-'Arafat Moves

GF071100 Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Jan (QNA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has said Egypt is concerned, following the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, that any new move would be a real and positive addition and that it would not lead to more conflicts and differences whether in the Arab arena or between the Arabs and Washington or between Washington and the European countries.

In a statement published in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper *AS-SIYASAH*, Dr Ghali said the Mubarak-'Arafat talks focused on future strategy and on finding a solution that would guarantee Palestinian rights. Egypt is studying and consulting with the concerned parties on the next step, the importance of which is not that it be a new project or a new working plan, but that it be a true addition, he said.

The Egyptian minister expressed the conviction that 1984 will probably witness a beginning for a settlement to the Middle East crisis or a beginning of moves toward this settlement. However, he emphasized the situation depends on united Arab moves and on ending the current differences.

On Egyptian Palestinian Commitment

NC071350 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has underlined Egypt's commitment to Palestinian rights as irrevocable and that it predates President Husni Mubarak's meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Ghali added that the Mubarak-'Arafat talks centered on future strategy and the way to find a formula through which the representatives of the Palestinian people can take part in the peace process and the efforts to find a solution guaranteeing the Palestinians the exercise of their full national rights.

Ghali stressed that Egypt will not let the Palestinians down until they attain their legitimate national rights, and that Egypt will continue its contacts with the United States, Israel, and other countries to serve the Palestinian cause.

Commenting on what is being said about a dialogue between Jordan and the Palestinians, Ghali told the Kuwaiti newspaper *AS-SIYASAH that Egypt is prepared to participate in a dialogue* in a way and form that would guarantee its success. Dr Ghali underscored that the first step should be in the direction of Arab solidarity and unity and the unity of the Palestinian ranks. He also emphasized the need for dialogue between the PLO and the United States, either directly or indirectly — a matter which would help the United States assume the role of full participant in the peace process.

Ghali announced that Washington has assured Egypt that the U.S. presidential elections will not preclude the U.S. role and efforts in the peace process. Dr Ghali warned that Israel would be the primary beneficiary from a delay in the peace process.

Interviewed by LIBERATION

NC091747 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Paris, 9 Jan (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized that it was wrong to give the Lebanese problem priority over the Palestinian problem. He said Egypt hopes to tackle the Lebanese and Palestinian crises simultaneously.

In an interview today with the French newspaper *LIBER ATION*, Dr Ghali pointed out that Egypt will work toward activating the U.S. stand on the Palestinian issue. He said: We do not expect to attain a comprehensive solution at present, but we are trying to change the situation to avoid a vacuum that will allow terrorism to sweep the area and further complicate the situation.

Dr Ghali said the EC has deviated a little from the Venice Declaration on the Palestinian issue. He said: We are aware of the difficulties facing the EC and hope that it will work at presenting a new diplomatic action. Dr Ghali emphasized that any action which strengthens PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will simultaneously bolster moderation and help establish peace in the area.

Opposition Paper Raps U.S. UNESCO Withdrawal

PM090858 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 4 Jan 84 p 11

[Faridah an-Naqqash article: "Let America Be the Loser"]

[Text] With the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO at the end of the year, the organization will lose one quarter of its budget. Despite this negative result financially, the withdrawal decision is a testimony of the increasing weight of the independent Third World countries and growing ability to express the interests of their people in the cultural sphere. It also is a testimony of their independent decisionmaking. The United States had often opposed the frequent resolutions adopted by the organization against Zionism's arbitrary actions that plundered the Palestinian people's heritage and tried to obliterate its culture. The organization also condemned racial discrimination in every place on the grounds that it is an aggression against the heritage of all humanity. In those cases UNESCO was not drawing an imaginary line between the political and cultural aspects of the phenomena that it has been observing and to whose dangers it has drawn the world's attention.

In summary, both big and small Third World countries, and despite their economic weakness and faltering development, have stood as a match to the United States. The result was this punishment.

The U.S. decision is based on two basic claims:

First, that the Third World countries in the organization have come under Soviet hegemony. This is the same "new-old" colonialist view that classifies the relations of friendship and cooperation between the socialist countries and national liberation movement countries as colonialist relations because it does not recognize any type of relations between countries other than those between the principal and the subordinate or the master and slave, that is, the kind of relations which the United States is now pursuing with the Third World. In fact, the United States is even trying to pursue such relations with its colonialist allies in Western Europe to achieve its aggressive objectives.

The second claim is that the organization is becoming increasingly political and has become "vociferously anti-American." The United States had lost one of its most important battles within UNESCO regarding the freedom of the flow of information and news, a freedom which would ultimately mean U.S. freedom because the United States is the country possessing the means of advanced technology.

As for the Third World countries, which found out that the rate of information emanating from them to the Western world amounted to no more than 1 percent, they have defended their sovereignty and cultural independence. This angered the United States which considered it "political deviation" on the part of UNESCO since it wants its ideas, propaganda, ideals, and way of life disseminated in those countries with no restrictions and without a similar right for the countries concerned. Otherwise, let the organization collapse as a result of financial deficit.

It is up to the Third World countries, including the oil-rich countries, to join hands and with the sincere help of the socialist world to compensate for the sudden deficit in the UNESCO budget so that the organization will continue to carry out its tasks and spread its worldwide message of defending the freedom and dignity of man as well as his culture and heritage.

Let isolation and loss be the lot of the American colonialists and not of the peoples.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Calls for Egyptian-Arab Unity

NC100654 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 10 Jan 84

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In an editorial: "Egypt's return to the Arabs or the Arabs' return to Egypt," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: There is no time for argument over this issue, because the challenges facing the Arab people in the eighties will have strong and fateful repercussions on the future and presence of this people in the region. The paper affirms that the issue is too big and serious to be subjected to argument because Egypt's return to the Arab fold is a strategic necessity that forcibly dictates itself.

Continuing its editorial, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says: If the Palestinian leader, Yasir 'Arafat, has embarked upon a patriotic [qawmiyah] initiative by visiting Egypt and meeting with President Mubarak for the sake of restoring balance to the region as he put it, then 'Arafat's patriotic initiatives alone are not enough. They should be coupled with other moves such as inviting Egypt to participate in the upcoming Islamic summit, and subsequently inviting it to attend the forthcoming Arab summit, scheduled to convene in Riyadh.

Mubarak Inspects Projects in Qina Governorate

NC091526 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning paid a visit to Qina Governorate during which he inspected production projects in Naj' Hammadi. The president visited the aluminum complex there and inspected the stages of work in the plant. President

Mubarak urged the workers to increase production and called for the exportation of production after the fulfillment of local market needs.

The president was accompanied on his tour by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din; Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, deputy prime minister and oil minister; and Industry and Mineral Resources Minister Muhammad as-Sayyid al-Gharuri.

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,336

JN091758 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,336 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 9 January 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The valiant sons of our Armed Forces are pursuing their courageous activities in the operations sectors against the forces of the clique of evil and aggression that is ruling in Iran. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our combat patrols carried out a successful operation against an enemy troop concentration opposite our forward units' positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. Our daring fighters captured four enemy elements and evacuated them to the rear lines. In another area in the same sector, new groups of Iranian soldiers, escaping Khomeyni's inferno and the despotism of his clique, sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to the rear lines.

2. Our combat patrols used all types of weapons to pound an enemy force opposite one of our forward units' positions east of Basra, killing and wounding many.

3. One of forward units shelled enemy positions opposite its positions in the Maysan sector, scoring direct and effective hits.

3. The rancorous enemy this afternoon shelled Khurmal and its suburbs, damaging several civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 January 1984

Haddad Appeals to Arab Governments, Parliaments

JN071633 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1552 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA) — The Iraqi National Assembly has said that the Arab governments and parliaments must share the responsibility of deterring the Iranian aggressions against the Arab Gulf region — aggressions that seriously threaten world peace. In a message to the heads of the Arab governments and the speakers of Arab parliaments today, National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad said: The termination of the Iranian rulers' continuous aggression against Iraq, their threats against the Gulf safety and security, and their blackmail concerning the closure of the Strait of Hormuz in order to harm navigation and international trade requires joint efforts. Haddad informed these governments and parliaments about Iraq's right to mount deterrent operations and punish the Iranian regime which insists on war and destruction.

Haddad pointed out that the Iranian regime has escalated its acts of sabotage not only against Iraq, but also against the states in the Arab Gulf region. He said that the criminal explosions that the Iranian agents recently carried out in Kuwait are an example of the mentality that seeks to impose hegemony and trusteeship over the peoples of Iran's neighboring countries under sick slogans that contradicts people's rights to select their social and political systems, and to interfere in their domestic affairs. Haddad drew attention to the conspiratorial attempts of the Iranian regime and its agents against Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, and other parts of the world.

At the end of his message, Haddad addressed the world governments and parliaments, saying: We are confident that you understand and support Iraq's stand which is concerned about peace, security, stability, and justice, and that you will continue your denunciation of the Iranian intransigence that leads to more human and economic losses and threatens world peace and security. We must mobilize our efforts to put an end to this intransigence by all means in our possession.

Saudi Crown Prince Departs Baghdad 9 Jan

JN091633 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA) — Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy prime minister and crown prince, left Baghdad today. He was seen off by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and foreign minister; and Minister of Interior Sa'dun Shakir.

Portuguese Foreign Minister, Delegation Arrive

JN080948 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA) — Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama arrived in Baghdad last night leading a delegation on a visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, Gama said his visit comes within the framework of strengthening relations of cooperation with Iraq in the political and economic fields. He added that he will lead the Portuguese side in the joint Iraqi-Portuguese committee meetings that will discuss the various aspects of cooperation between the two countries.

He was received by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the under secretaries of the Foreign Ministry and the Housing and Reconstruction Ministry.

Talks Begin 8 Jan

JN081351 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA) — The first round of talks between Iraq and Portugal began here today. The Iraqi side to the talks is headed by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, while the Portuguese side is headed by Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them. They also expressed their desire to proceed with the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Portugal and to work for promoting them.

The talks were attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf, the Portuguese ambassador in Baghdad, and the members of the Portuguese delegation.

Ramadan Receives Minister

JN091639 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Baghdad — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama and the delegation accompanying him.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed existing relations between the two countries as well as issues connected to the Iraqi-Portuguese joint committee currently [meeting] in Baghdad, which will promote the relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields.

The meeting was attended by Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj and the Portuguese ambassador in Baghdad.

New Government Expected Under Interior Minister

JN100805 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* can confirm that Prime Minister Mudar Badran will tender his government's resignation to His Majesty King Husayn today, Tuesday. This means that the ordinary session of the House of Representatives will meet on Thursday, as confirmed by Badran himself yesterday.

Informed sources expect his majesty the king to charge Interior Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat with the formation of the new government.

The Royal Hashemite Court and the Prime Ministry witnessed intensive political activity yesterday following the extraordinary session of Parliament which approved the amendment to Article 73 of the Constitution.

The parliamentary lobbies also witnessed intensive activity among government members, the Senate, and the House of Representatives in which Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Interior Minister Ahmad 'Ubyaydat, and senior government officials played an active part.

The political activities continued after the sessions of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Royal Hashemite Court was the scene of a series of consultations, contacts, and meetings among senior state officials which centered on the politifal changes which will attend the return of parliamentary life in Jordan, especially the formation of the new government, now that it has been confirmed that the Parliament will hold its ordinary session on Thursday. His Majesty King Husayn will open the session with a speech from the throne.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B can also confirm that the formation of the new government will leave several key government positions vacant in addition to the current vacant positions and that these positions will be filled in the next few days.

The political activities and the many expectations attending them, whether affecting the government or various other posts, reflect a desire to cope with the requirements of the current phase through which the entire Arab region is passing, especially Jordan and the Palestine question, and with the crucial challenges facing the Arab cause in light of what is taking place in the occupeid territory, such as the implementation of the annexation plan and the deportation of our kinfolk from their occupied homeland.

Meanwhile, *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* has learned that the speech from the throne to be delivered by His Majesty King Husayn in opening Parliament on Thursday will emphasize the main bases of Jordan's pan-Arab policy on various current issues, especially with regard to the Palestine question and cohesion among the sons of the one Jordanian family.

The new government is epxected to adopt the speech as its policy statement on the basis of which it will seek a vote of confidence from Parliament.

Badran Briefs Press on Parliamentary Life

JN091433 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Mudar Badran has announced that Parliament will hold an ordinary session on Thursday during which His Majesty King Husayn will deliver the speech from the throne. He affirmed that the restoration of full constitutional life to Jordan is purely an internal affair that has absolutely no effect on other matters.

In a statement to journalists following extraordinary sessions of both the Senate and the House of Representatives today, Badran said: Today is a historic day in the blessed march of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan because on this day parliamentary life has been restored to Jordan. It is a day on which democracy is practiced on a large scale through the House of Representatives' return to practice the constitutional rights as stipulated in the Constitution.

He added that the suspension of parliamentary life was the result of imposed circumstances. The House of Representatives was suspended in 1976 due to these circumstances, but now the king has found it necessary to restore parliamentary and constitutional life to Jordan in order to enable the elected representatives to practice their constitutional rights in the future. He explained that the unanimity that reflects the opinion of the people on both banks of Jordan concerning the return of parliamentary life is the best proof and evidence of the steps that both the Senate and the House of Representatives have taken today.

Badran said: While I congratulate every citizen on the king's pioneering step and the big response that was represented by this step today, I affirm that this nation has a promising future.

Badran said that Parliament will hold an ordinary session on Thursday during which the king will deliver the speech of the throne. He added that Parliament will assume its constitutional life immediately after the speech, as stipulated by the Constitution.

Answering journalists' questions, Badran was asked about filling the vacant seats in the House of Representatives. He said: This House will return to fill the vacant seats in the West Bank. The electoral law stipulates that the speaker of the House of Representatives should send a notice to the prime minister about the seats that became vacant in the East Bank due to the death of the representatives there. Accordingly, the Cabinet must announce the elections within a period not exceeding 2 months, during which by-elections in the East Bank may take place within a shorter period. Therefore, the vacant seats in the house will be filled through the by-elections in the East Bank. The West Bank members of the House will be elected under Article 88 of the Constitution in a method deemed suitable, considering the current situation and inability to conduct elections there.

In reply to a question on whether the current House of Representatives will complete a full 4-year term, the prime minister said that the House of Representatives returns with all the rights stipulated in the Constitution and as though it were a new House

of Representatives. The Constitution, with all its articles, governs this house and now that this house has come into existence the Constitution says that its term will be 4 years.

With regard to the intention of increasing the number of representatives in the house, Mudar Badran said that there are nine electoral districts in the East Bank and seven in the West Bank. The districts in the West Bank produce 30 representatives and the same applies to the East Bank. Thus, there is a total of 60 members of the House of Representatives.

On the participation of women in parliamentary life, Badran said that women have the right to participate in elections. As for the right to be a candidate to the House of Representatives, this is the prerogative of the house itself which has now returned with its full constitutional powers.

Replying to those who cast doubts on Jordan's step to restore full parliamentary life, the prime minister said that the Jordanian step is a return to the Constitution. This is purely a domestic affair and has absolutely no impact on other matters or other equations. He said: This is a purely domestic affair, and I mean what I say. It is an implementation of the Constitution, a return to it, and a restoration of parliamentary life and democracy. On this occasion, I would like to remind you that everyone who used to attend the National Consultative Council [NCC] sessions, even the NCC members, used to call for the return to parliamentary and democratic life in this country. These have been incessant demands, and now they have been fulfilled, praise be to God, thanks to his majesty's royal decree.

Newspapers, Radio Comment on Recall of Parliament

AR-RA'Y Rubuts Criticism

JN070746 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 7 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Reality and Interpretation," *AR-RA'Y* says: The call for Parliament to amend Article 73 of the Constitution is a natural measure intended to restore parliamentary life to our community. This step does not need justification regarding the interpretations and explanations made by some Arab and international circles.

The practice of parliamentary life is one of the constitutional rights of our people. The occupation of the West Bank prevented parliamentary life in the East Bank because of the constitutional and international legal ties which still exist between the two banks. It is not necessary to say that these constitutional and legal ties have constituted the main obstacle that prevented Israel from legal confiscation of the occupied West Bank. Israel has always been waiting for a legal vacuum in the West Bank to carry out its confiscation plan. In order to prevent that vacuum, and at the same time to restore parliamentary life to the East Bank, Jordan has called on the Parliament to meet to approve the constitutional amendments that will achieve both obejctives. In light of this, the explanations and interpretations that are contrary to it are mere baseless predictions.

AR-RA'Y continues: It would be better for those who mourn for the PLO and the Fes summit resolutions to have a deeper view and not to give free rein to their ideas. Jordan's concern about the restoration of parliamentary life does not mean ignoring the PLO, because the one is not contrary to the other. This stand is crystal clear; it needs no justification. This step can not tolerate confusing inter pretations whether they come from good intentions or are aimed at causing provocation and exaggeration.

AR-RA'Y concludes: Jordan's commitment to work for the sake of the Palestine cause is firm and categorical, and its respect for Palestinian legitimacy and its resolution is a fact known by everybody. Under all circumstances, Jordan will remain the steadfast bastion that will protect Arab integrity, defend the cause, and ensure democratic parliamentary life for those who live in its arena.

AD-DUSTUR: Deep-Rooted Tr 'ition

JN090945 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Return to Deep-Rooted Traditions," *AD-DUSTUR* says: After a break of 9 years, Jordan today witnesses the reconvening of Parliament. The people's joy at seeing Parliament and the people's representatives return to exercise their rights, as stipulated in the Constitution, can only be understood by those who realize how much Jordan has suffered while endeavoring to balance its pan-Arab commitments with its duty toward its people.

AD-DUSTUR adds: If circumstances forced Jordan to suspend one of the most important lawful institutions emanating from the will of Jordan's sons, the sacrifice that Jordan accepted far away from selfishness and out of complete devotion to its pan-Arab duties was in service of the objectives that are still the subject of our consideration and deep faith. It is unreasonable that the Jordanian people should remain deprived of basic rights that are guaranteed in the Constitution, awaiting unknown developments and far away goals in light of the current Arab and international circumstances.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: While we in Jordan are resuming the march on the steps of elected democratic institutions, we would like to affirm, to all those who claim concern over Palestine and Arab commitments while stabbing the cause and its owners in the back, that we have not violated a single right of the Palestinian people and have not bypassed their legitimate institutions, because we and the Palestinians are partners in good and bad days and have the same cause and destiny — a destiny that emanates from ties of blood and history and joint challenges and confrontation.

Amman Radio Commentary
JN092142 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] With the reconvening of its esteemed House of Representatives, Jordan today opens a new page in the history of its constant march and allows this house to perform its duties of serving this steadfast Arab homeland. Today, Jordanian democracy regains one of its basic pillars in the march of our one people, following a forcible absence of approximately 10 years during which Jordan preserved democratic life in its most splendid possible forms. This measure is undoubtedly a natural right and a logical result of the Jordanian leadership's wisdom in safeguarding the independence of Jordanian decisionmaking on one hand and in having the people participate in shaping this decision on the other hand. From this premise, reorganizing the democratic march in Jordan and completing all of its requirements clearly shape the free will of this promising Arab homeland by choosing the most appropriate course for the one people's march toward progress, advancement, and attaining the vital material and moral interests of the Jordanian people without harming the interests of others.

The decision is a Jordanian decision, and its objective is to restore full democratic life by allowing the House of Representatives to exercise its legislative duties. Neither this decision nor that objective can constitute any encroachment on the rights, interests, decisions, and objectives of others.

The House of Representatives which existed from 1967 until 1974 was a Jordanian House of Representatives to which no one objected. The fact that this house has resumed the duties it has been entrusted to carry out in accordance with the Constitution is not unusual and does not constitute a transgression on the rights of others. It should not bring about the clamor that has been raised over the resumption of its ordinary session.

We had to say this so that those far and near will understand that what is taking place in Jordan is an internal Jordanian affair; no one else has anything to do with it. In other words, Jordan is more aware than others of its interests, and there is no meaning for what some external parties are raising unless these parties' objective is to undermine our interests and destroy what we have built for the Arabs' glory and dignity during these long decades.

In spite of all the clamor that is being raised about our House of Representatives resuming its well-known national duties, the Jordanian march will continue to be guided along its unified course by the landmarks defind by its unique Hashemite leadership. This will be done without heeding the fabricated hue and cry raised outside our borders, which will not affect the march of this people regardless of the ferocity of this fabricated hue and cry.

Our House of Representatives met in an extraordinary session today and amended the Constitution in a manner that will guarantee the reconvening of its ordinary session and the exercising of its duties in the best possible manner. The one people who welcomed their esteemed house — which has returned with all the appreciation and gratitude that it deserves — will continue to supply this house with the best cadres so that it can remain a mainstay of democratic life and a real edifice for legislation under His Majesty King Husayn's leadership.

Resignations of Ambassadors, Officials Accepted

JN091048 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — A royal decree has been issued accepting the resignation of Jordanian Ambassador in Rabat Muhyi ad-Din al-Husayni and Ambassador in London Tahir al-Masri effective yesterday. Another royal decree accepts the resignation of Ambassador to Lebanon Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi effective 15 December 1983 and the resignations of judges Muhammad 'Ali al-Hatamilah and 'Abd al-Fattah az-Zahir al-'Awmilah effective 30 January 1984.

AD-DUSTUR: PLO's Al-Wazir To Arrive Soon

JN100829 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Jan 84 pp 1, 21

[Text] Amman — Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces, is expected to arrive in Amman within the next few days. Al-Wazir's arrival in Amman was delayed due to the meetings of the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

It is worth noting that Al-Wazir represents the Palestinian side in the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee to bolster the steadfastness in the occupied territories. The committee has not met for a long time because of the incidents in the Palestinian arena and the committee's lack of material capabilities.

AD-DUSTUR on 'Arafat's Statement on Offer of State

JN081233 Amman Doemstic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 8 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "'Arafat Exposes the Plot," *AD-DUSTUR* says: The statement made by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and which *AD-DUSTUR* publishes today, indicates that there is a dangerous conspiracy to divide the region into in effective sectarian states. This talk, repeated by 'Arafat so many times, could have passed without arousing interest, if the Palestinian leader had not disclosed a proposal offered to him which he later rejected. The proposal called for severing part of Lebanon in order to establish a Palestinian state on it within a plan aimed at settling Palestinians outside Palestine.

Although 'Arafat talked briefly about this plan, which shows the collusion of some Arab parties, this announcement will arouse great concern among Arab and Lebanese parties. Despite 'Arafat's refusal to identify the Arab party directly involved, there is little doubt as to who is involved in this conspiracy.

Until 'Arafat produces the evidence which he says he will publicize, the many plans disseminated by many sources on dividing Lebanon on a sectarian basis will gain more credibility particularly after the disclosure of an Arab dimension in this conspiracy aimed against Lebanon and the entire Arab nation.

What 'Arafat disclosed in his statement to *AD-DUSTUR* must be a warning to the Lebanese people before anyone else of the dangerous conspiracy against their small homeland, a conspiracy concocted by Israel, the United States, and some Arabs who are colluding against their nation's issues, principles, and ideals. What the Palestinian leader said about his visit to Cairo after his departure from Tripoli is an attempt to restore balance to the region to face the onslaught of the petty states' princes and an obvious indication not only to the origin of the conspiracy, but also the identity of conspirators.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The PLO leader, who did not forget to praise Jordan's stand under King Husayn during the siege of Tripoli and the great services Jordan rendered during the crisis, hinted also at the Arabs' inaction and suspect silence during the siege. The careless Arab slackness toward pan-Arab issues led to this nation's current weakness and retreat. The only remedy for this situation is direct frankness and complete commitment to the pan-Arab duties which are above all calculations. Jordan has always been — before and after the siege of Tripoli — a good example of what others should be.

Prince Hasan Confers With U.S. Delegation
JN092014 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met with the visiting U.S. congressional delegation headed by Matthew McHugh, member of the congressional Foreign Relations Committee, in the head office of the Jordan Valley Authority in Dayr 'Alla at noon today. His highness told the delegation about the projects that the authority is carrying out in the Jordan valley and which are considered to be a successful Jordanian experience in the field of agriculture.

His highness also gave a detailed briefing on the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the Israeli settlement policy aimed at Judaizing these lands and emptying them of their original inhabitants.

Wang Renzhong, PRC Delegation Arrive 9 Jan
JN091823 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] A PRC delegation from the National People's Congress [NPC] led by Wang Renzhong, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 6-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Senate President Ahmad at-Tarawinah. The delegation will hold talks with a number of senior officials dealing with the means to promote cooperation between the two countries. They will also visit a number of Jordan's cultural, tourist, and antiquity sites.

King Approves Licensing of Jordanian Weekly
JN091054 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] Amman, PETRA-JNA — A royal decree has been issued approving the Cabinet's decision to grant colleagues 'Adnan as-Sabah and Fayiz Hamdan a license to publish the social and cultural weekly magazine *AL-ITHNAYN*, which will be published every Monday morning. As-Sabah will be the chief editor.

It is worth noting that *AL-ITHNAYN* was established in 1963 as a weekly political magazine. Its publication was suspended in 1976 due to the circumstances in Lebanon — the weekly used to be published in Beirut.

We wish our colleagues success and hope *AL-ITHNAYN* will be an asset to the Jordanian press.

Briefs

Silver Production — Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Beginning this month, a specialized Jordanian company will produce 3,000 kg of silver each month. Joy Joseph, general manager of the Jordanian Silver Production Company, said that the silver produced by the company will meet Jordan's needs and that the surplus will be exported to neighboring Arab markets, primarily Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. In a special statement to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*, Joseph said that the company's silver production will be in accordance with the latest international specifications. It will be produced in various industries in which silver is a main or secondary material. [Excerpt] [Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jan 84 p 1 JN]

Reportage on Riyadh Foreign Ministers Meeting

Salim Returns 9 Jan

NC091825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Elie Salim has just arrived at Beirut Airport accompanied by his secretary Elysse 'Alam.

Terms Meeting 'Very Useful'

NC091952 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim returned to Beirut tonight from Saudi Arabic. He immediately went to the Presidential Palace to brief President Amin al-Jumayyil on the outcome of his meetings in Riyadh with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

The following dialogue took place at the airport between Minister Salim and Darwish 'Ammar, representative of the National Information Agency:

[Begin recording]['Ammar] Minister Salim: Major issues were discussed at the Riyadh meetings. The first was the security plan, the second was the resumption of the Geneva conference, and the third was the inter-Lebanese dialogue. How do you assess the results of these meetings?

[Salim] The meetings in Riyadh were very useful. We discussed in depth and in much seriousness and sobriety all the current issues in Lebanon. We had the honor of visiting His Majesty The King [Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz] and discussed the Lebanese question with him at length. We also held several discussions with his Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and [Syrian Foreign] Minister Khaddam. There were bilateral, tripartite, and private meetings. We tackled all the issues you referred to. We hope the discussions will produce positive results which would then develop into security, political, and economic relaxation.

['Ammar] As we have heard from Minister Salim, there are great hopes for the possibility of broad security, political, and economic relaxation. I learned that immediately upon his arrival at the airport, Minister Salim went to the Presidential Palace in B'abda to brief President Amin al-Jumayyil on the results of the Riyadh meetings. [end recording]

Sources on Talks

NC100806 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The little information available on the Riyadh meeting held among the Lebanese, Syrian, and Saudi foreign ministers, says that the talks dealt with all pending questions, particularly Lebanese-Syrian relations and the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement. However, in spite of the 2 days of in-depth talks, the conferees failed to arrive at final and decisive results.

A diplomatic source says that Lebanon and Syria desire to reduce their differences as much as possible, with this translating into periodic meetings to reach common denominators on the existing differences.

The source says the talks dealt with the security plan for Beirut and mountain area, and that it is intended to implement the plan. It was reported that contacts to this effect continued throughout yesterday with the parties concerned and that these contacts were positive. There is optimism over the possibility of overcoming the question recently raised concerning the promotion of some officers in response to the request of Walid Junblatt. The security plan will be declared tomorrow, Wednesday, if all goes well as Lebanon desires, according to the source.

Another well-informed source says the Riyadh talks in respect to resuming the National Dialogue Conference have manifested two things:

1. Syria's attempt to link the Dialogue Conference with the 17 May agreement, in addition to proposals for an amendment. It was agreed to conclude discussion on this at another meeting to be held on 16 January in Rabat.

2. This is connected to the security plan which has been linked with the officers' promotion. Talks were held to freeze this. Intensive contacts will be held today and tomorrow in the hope that a result will be reached on declaring the plan and beginning its implementation.

Phalangist Command Calls Security Plan Apolitical

NC100802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council met last night under the chairmanship of Fadi Afram to review developments regarding the security plan. In a statement released after the meeting, the Council stressed the security plan has no political nature and is confined to a specific geographical area where there are no Syrian or Israeli forces. The Council called on all parties to show a minimum level of national responsibility to facilitate the return of legitimate authority to several Lebanese areas.

Al-Jumayyil Address Praises Army Role

NC092154 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has emphasized that there could be no homeland without an army, no army without a command, and no command without the real scientific background which develops the army on technical, scientific, advanced, and sophisticated bases.

Speaking today at the opening ceremony of the 4th staff officers course at the Command and Staff College at the Defense Ministry,President al-Jumayyil said: We can prove today that this Lebanon is a Middle East necessity and is the only country which cannot be dispensed with, culturally or even militarily, for the security of the region and environment.

Addressing the officers, the president said: We very proudly say today that the Lebanese Army has become the backbone for safeguarding Lebanon's independence and sovereignty and the vigor of the Lebanese people, whereas the [Army] institution was inactive and marginally involved with the people, their question, and message. Today, you, yourselves, have become the mission, question, and independence.

Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus then made a speech greeting the officers and soldiers. He pointed out that a new leap by the Army will be realized when it implements the security plan from Al-Awwali to Al-Madfun. General Tannus affirmed that the State's policy is being realized in four areas: Fighting partition, unifying the country, liberating the homeland's soil from all occupations, and realizing national sovereignty, freedom, and democracy. General Tannus said: We are in dire need for a stronger faith to discharge the mission for which we have devoted our efforts — securing the safety of the homeland and spreading sovereignty and freedom on its soil.

VOH Director Says Sa'd Haddad in Good Health

JN101038 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The Reverend George (Ottis), director of the Voice of Hope, visited Major Sa'd Haddad at his home today. He said Maj Haddad was in good health. Maj Haddad asked (Ottis) that the Voice of Hope convey his thanks to all those who prayed for his recovery and he hopes that he would soon be among those who love him and among the citizens of Free Lebanon to thank them.

Al-Murabitun Forces Rap Arrests Campaign in Beirut

NC100932 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Regarding the arrests campaign 2 days ago in the Sabra area along Tariq al-Jadidah, a responsible security source in the Al-Murabitun forces said the following:

The reasons given by the authorities through the information media, particularly on television, for raids on, and arrests of, some of our young Palestinian kinfolk in the Sabra area lead us to express fear. We recall that in the wake of the incidents in the southern suburb and Shatila traffic circle area following the withdrawal of the French contingent from its positions we warned that the incidents were preparatory to a military plan to storm western Beirut from Sabra, Shatila, and Tariq al-Jadidah. In the wake of the arrests and raids made in the last 2 days in that area, the facts that have now led to Al-Murabitun's fear, warning, and readiness have become evident.

Although the authorities have given their reasons to justify this action, the solid fact that there have been collective detentions has been exposed. This throws light on why the operation has been denounced on the basis of signs of an arrest and terror campaign against our Lebanese and Palestinian people, particularly in Tariq al-Jadidah and Sabra. The authorities' story about arresting wanted men, but freeing detained persons confirms that theyhave in fact carried out this collective campaign and that arrests were not confined to the reportedly 10 detained persons, against whom arrest warrants had been issued.

This matter forces us to warn that the Al-Murabitun forces' Security Revolutionary Committee will find itself compelled to place every Al-Murabitun struggler at his natural post alongside our people and Palestinian kinfolk living in Beirut on the grounds that whatever affects them also directly affects us.

Kidnapped Lebanese Died in Israeli Ba'labakk Raid

NC091323 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Scores of kidnapped Lebanese being held by Al-Musawi and Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Ba'labakk, died under the debris of the two buildings destroyed by Israeli warplanes. The Iranians and Al-Musawi had accused the Lebanese Forces of having kidnapped these people who, however, died in Ba'labakk. 'Abdallah Yunis, one of those who escaped unhurt from the Israeli raid said he was kidnapped 5 months ago by Iranian gunmen and placed with scores of other Lebanese in the prison of the gendarmerie barracks which were seized by the Iranians. He added that his comrades had been killed in the Israeli raid, and that he had managed to escape unhurt.

Shaykhani Meets British Envoy, Makes Statement

NC091332 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Britain today expressed its desire to keep its contingent in Lebanon. This was conveyed today at a meeting which Roger Shaykhani, minister of information and justice, had with British Ambassador to Lebanon Henry Miers. The meeting dealt with some matters relating to justice and information affairs. After the meeting, Minister Shaykhani made the following statement:

[Begin recording] The British ambassador visited me this morning in an acquainting and formal visit, seeking to understand certain Lebanese stances and the role of the British contingent with the Multinational Force in Lebanon.

We exchanged views on this subject. I briefed him on Lebanese intentions and desire for coexistence in one united Lebanon. The ambassador told me the visit of His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil to Britain was very useful in enlightening all the British people to Lebanon's desire for a happy democratic life, just as Great Britain is seeking to achieve this in its country in spite of the difficulties there. We placed the Lebanese question parallel to what is now happening in Great Britain. The recent tragedy which took place in London is similar to the many tragedies taking place in Lebanon. Hence, it is clear to us that there is a mutual interest to check terrorism wherever it is, be it in Great Britain or Lebanon. The ambassador informed me of the desire of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Government's desire to keep the symbolic contingent with the Multinational Force.

Views were exchanged on information affairs and our assistance to British correspondents in their mission and regarding the

Ministry of Justice. The ambassador inquired about the judicial affairs in the Greater Beirut and other Lebanese areas. These affairs are being conducted as appropriately as possible in various areas. However, those areas under the control of the Lebanese authority and Army, justice is exemplary. [end recording]

French Paratrooper Killed, 2 Wounded

NC092010 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut, Jan 9 (AFP) — A French paratrooper of the Multinational Force was killed and two other French paratroopers were wounded here tonight when a French post was attacked by rocket and automatic weapon fire in one of two almost simultaneous attacks, a French Army spokesman said.

The post was in the French Headquarters area. The other attack, also by a rocket, was against the residence of a Lebanese Parliamentary deputy, Fu'ad Lahhud, chairman of the Parliamentary Defence Committee.

No-one was hurt in that attack.

The closeness of the rocket explosions created the initial impression that the attack on the French post was fiercer than it was. The attackers fled without being identified. A total of 83 French troops have been killed and 96 wounded since the French contingent arrived in Lebanon.

More Reportage on Situation in South

Israeli Governor's Headquarters Attacked

NC101427 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The headquarters of the Zionist military governor in An-Nabatiyah was attacked with rockets this morning. The Zionist forces' losses are not known because of the security cordon which these forces imposed around the area. It has been reported that the occupation forces are still surrounding An-Nabatiyah and that they have cut all roads leading to the city. Helicopters are seen flying in the skies of An-Nabatiyah.

The sound of two big explosions was heard in Sidon at noon. It transpired that they occurred when two explosive devices were detonated by remote control when an enemy convoy was passing on Sayniq Bridge south of Sidon. Enemy losses are not known because the roads have been cut. However, the sound of ambulances was heard inthe area and helicopters were seen moving the casualties.

Israelis Close Al-Awwali Bridge

NC091537 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] A security source has stated that following the bomb attack on two Israeli military trucks in Sidon, the Israeli forces this afternoon closed Al-Awwali River Bridge to cars and pedestrians in both directions at 1530. They also closed the main Jazzin Road near Al-Qayya'ah triangle.

The Israeli forces intensified their repressive measures on Al-Qasimiyah Bridge at noon, subjecting Tyre-bound cars and their passengers to thorough inspections. Many columns of cars were seen parked at a distance of 3 kilometers from the checkpoint.

Reopen Al-Awwali Crossing Points

NC101034 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] In the south, the Israeli forces have, since this morning, allowed vehicles to cross the Al-Awwali crossing points in both directions without prior permission having to be obtained. They have also opened a new crossing point to the east of the northern entry to Sidon.

Before noon today the Israeli forces cut off Riyad as-Shulh Street [in Sidon] near Shahrazad Cinema and raided adjacent buildings for no apparent reason.

In Tripoli today the barricades and ramparts are being removed from Al-Qubbah, Ash-Sha'rani, (Al-Baqqar), Al-Amrikan Square, and the environs of the Army barracks in Al-Qubbah.

More on Israeli Practices

NC101047 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Excerpt] One hour before this news summary was prepared, the Israeli Forces cut Riyad As-Sulh Street near Shahrazad in Sidon, and stormed buildings in the Lebanese commerical bank area. The forces demolished some huts and stands near the Teachers' College Center, which is parallel to the Al-Awwali Bridge, and cut the road for this purpose.

It was also reported that the Israeli forces this morning destroyed fishing nets in Sidon port and seized the equipment of dozens of fishermen. The Israeli forces warned them that they will open fire against whoever attempts to go fishing.

Meanwhile, security tension continues in southern areas. Several explosions were heard last night in 'Abra-al-Hilaliyah causing damage to business places and buildings. An explosive device went off on Al-Ghaziyah Road causing damage to agricultural equipment and a machinery shop.

In Khaldah, it was reported that the road is unsafe after artillery shells landed there between 0715 and 0800. At approximately the same time, calm returned to Bsaba, Bshamun, and Al-Ma'rufiyah after gunfire exchanges there ceased.

In Tripoli, the removal of barriers and earth barriers is underway in various quarters of the city without encountering any obstacles. There is complete cooperation among members of the Northern Coordination Committee.

'Terrorist Operation' in Sidon

NC091909 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The Israeli Army carried out a new terrorist operation this afternoon in Sidon in the south.

Quoting correspondents in the south, news agencies reported that at 1430 this afternoon, Israeli soldiers entered Riyad as-Sulh Street while firing shots in the air from a truck and jeep. The correspondents added that directly after the Israeli vehicles passed by, pedestrians found a bomb at the end of the street. The city's inhabitants then closed the area with rocks and waited for experts to arrive to defuse the bomb.

The correspondents also said that in the meantime 15 soldiers of an Israeli patrol were passing Riyad as-Sulh Street on foot with police dogs. They fired in the air before the experts arrived. The correspondents went on to say that other Israeli soldiers stationed on roofs of buildings participated in the shooting. These incidents spread fear among the city's population. Several women fainted in the street and shops closed down. A large number of inhabitants, who were passing in the street, took shelter inside buildings. The correspondents affirmed that the firing resumed at 1530.

It is recalled that a similar incident took place in Sidon last Saturday.

There have been different stories for the reasons for the shooting in the air this afternoon. According to reports from Sidon, a bomb was thrown at a patrol which however did not explode. However, news agencies quoted eyewitnesses as saying that the bomb was hurled from an Israeli jeep in front of a truck carrying Israeli soldiers. The Israeli forces defused a bomb, which was thrown near the Abu an-Nuwwas shop on Riyad as-Sulh Street, at 1540.

Dissidents Kill 4 Syrians in Clash

NC091315 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Information received by the Voice of Lebanon from Al-Biqa' indicates that clashes in the past 2 days between Syrian special units and the dissidents led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] resulted in the deaths of four Syrian soldiers. As a result, the special units surrounded the dissidents' positions after directing warnings to them of the consequences of recurring incidents.

Our correspondent has said that 200 Amal gunmen have left Al-Biqa' for Al-Wardaniyah in the Al-Kharrub region to participate with the Junblattists in creating tension in the area.

Saudi Envoy, Syrian, Lebanese Officials Confer
NC061322 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] The Syrian capital is currently witnessing a new round of talks within the context of the security plan involving Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and lawyer Nabih Birri, Amal movement leader. Birri is expected to return to Beirut today after a brief visit to the north where he will meet with [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah and [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Junblatt Criticizes Security Plan
JN071628 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Text] In Damascus this afternoon talks began among representatives of the Lebanese Government, party officials, and political leaders with the participation of Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri. Those taking part in the talks are: Simon Qassis on behalf of the Lebanese Army, Jean Ghanim on behalf of the Lebanese Front, Michel Samaha on behalf of the Phalangist Party, and two representatives from the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and Amal Movement. The talks deal with the comprehensive security plan for Greater Beirut and the Lebanese mountain, but Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, PSP leader Walid Junblatt, and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri are not participating.

In an exclusive statement to our radio, Walid Junblatt expressed his categorical objection to the Lebanese Army's entry into the mountain area, saying that the much talked about security plan is merely an attempt to reach a military agreement. It has no political significance.

Junblatt, Al-Hariri Deny Meeting
JN071758 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Telephone dispatch by Louis Faris, Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus — live]

[Text] Today's reports on the Lebanese Security Committee's meetings in Damascus have been conflicting. Some sources have actually asserted that the committee met following the arrival here today of Colonel Simon Qassis, Jean Ghanim, and Michel Samahah. However, at the time this newscast began and before meeting with Jallud here today, Walid Junblatt surprised reporters by saying that the Lebanese Security Committee had not arrived in Damascus and that he considers this development an escalation of the situation by the Lebanese Government. Earlier today, a meeting was held between 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and Rafiq al-Hariri. They were later joined by 'Asim Qansuh and 'Abdallah al-Anis.

A few moments ago, the situation became clear when Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri declared that the Lebanese Security Committee had not arrived in Damascus, and that he had decided to leave for Beirut in Nabih Birri's company to personally deal with the situation.

Junblatt Interview on Plan
JN071843 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1728 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Interview with Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt by Radio Monte Carlo Damascus correspondent Louis Faris in Damascus on 7 January — recorded]

[Text] [Faris] Mr Junblatt, there are many reports about your position on the proposed Lebanese security plan; that you have certain reservations. What is your true position on the plan?

[Junblatt] We have reservations on the Lebanese Army's entry into the mountain areas, especially on its presence in the Lebanese mountain area of Ash-Shahhar. The Army should be used after a comprehensive Lebanese political solution has been found. This is our main reservation.

[Faris] I heard that your allies, particularly Nabih Birri and Former President Sulayman Franjiyah, have agreed to this plan. Why do you take a different position from that of your allies?

[Junblatt] I met yesterday with Nabih Birri. As far as I know, we had a joint, unified position. As for President Franjiyah, he is a major ally but possibly an atmosphere developed around him which gave him the impression that the Lebanese Army was acceptable to us. We will visit Franjiyah as soon as possible to explain to him the real picture; namely, that we absolutely reject the Army.

[Faris] Therefore, and in light of your position, the security plan is not expected to be declared in the foreseeable future. What do you expect?

[Junblatt] My position does not cancel the announcement of the security plan, but there are essential details that have not been agreed on. We hope that the Security Committee which is currently present in Damascus [as heard] will soon be able to work out these problems.

[Faris] Therefore, there will not be a security plan before a political detente. This leads us to the second Geneva conference. Do you think that the conference will be held in the foreseeable future?

[Junblatt] The security plan is a phase that will relieve Lebanon of the fighting and armed clashes. However, the security plan does not remove the basic political differences in Lebanon between us, the opposition, and the regime. Therefore, the political differences are rife and acute. We hope these differences will be discussed through political dialogue rather than through guns.

[Faris] What do you expect from the tripartite meeting which will be held soon in Riyadh among the Syrian, Lebanese, and Saudi foreign ministers?

[Junblatt] The ministers will discuss the Lebanese and Arab situations. Regarding the Lebanese situation, there is a major issue which is the 17 May agreement. We cannot penetrate this obstacle by which Lebanon has become an extension for Israel and Israeli-U.S. policy. This is our position and I think this is Syria's open, clear, and agreed on position.

[Faris] In your opinion, what is Syria's position on the security plan?

[Junblatt] Naturally, Syria wants a stop to the Lebanese fighting. However, Syria understands the Lebanese opposition's national demands which were presented in Geneva and elsewhere. Therefore, we are completely coordinating with the Syrian Government and its representatives concerning the Lebanese people's just, national demands.

[Faris] Thank you Mr Walid Junblatt.

Jallud News Conference 9 Jan

JN091937 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the Libyan 1 September Revolution, has asserted that Syria is the steadfast bastion of the Arabs in the face of imperialist and Zionist ambitions. At a news conference he held in Damascus today, Maj Jallud praised the steadfastness of Syria, the Lebanese National Front, and the resistance, asserting that the strong cohesion of these forces will repulse the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against Syria and the Arab region.

At the conference, Maj Jallud condemned the new conspiracy of King Husayn and the Palestinian rightists that is represented by the recall of the Jordanian Parliament. He asserted that this conspiracy will fail because of the Palestinian people's steadfastness and the stands of the Palestinian revolutionary factions, which are defending the legitimate Palestinian rights. Maj Jallud praised the Lebanese nationalists' steadfastness in the face of the criminal actions perpetrated by the Zionist invasion forces. He asserted the need to support this steadfastness in order to liberate Lebanon from the Zionist invaders and from all the U.S. and Western forces.

AL-BA'TH Discusses Plan

JN080723 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On the Lebanese security plan, *AL-BA'TH* says: While a lot is being said about the disputing parties' acceptance of the security plan proposed by the Lebanese Government, we find that the party that always works to inflame the dispute whenever there is hope of ending the abnormal Lebanese situation is disrupting Lebanese security instead of playing the role it should be playing in removing the obstacles that may prevent ending the Lebanese troubles. This party, which receives unlimited support from the Lebanese Government, the United States, and Israel, is not satisfied with inflaming the security situation in an attempt to ruin the security plan, but has accused Syria of working to destroy the security plan. The Lebanese and non-Lebanese admit that Syria is a great deal more enthusiastic than many Lebanese about establishingcalm all over Lebanon and about the genuine unity of the Lebanese people.

Syria worked and continues to work toward this end. Syria insists on the need for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon as a first step, and then on the multinational forces' withdrawal so that Lebanon's strength may be restored.

AL-BA'TH adds: Since we are discusing the proposed Lebanese security plan, we believe that the Lebanese Government must play the main role in taking a decisive action on this issue. The Lebanese Government should not go on allowing a certain Lebanese party to realize its aims on issues concerning the homeland. We believe that the Lebanese Government should issue its final word not only concerning the behavior of this Lebanese party, which is bent only on dominating the Lebanese people and territory, but also concerning the Israeli occupation and the U.S. presence which is no less aggressive than the Israeli presence.

Concluding, the paper says: The first step toward Lebanon's victory and the restoration of legitimacy to all the Lebanese areas is represented by ending the Israeli and U.S. occupation of Lebanon and then cutting the Phalangist militias down to size.

AL-BA'TH on 17 May Agreement

JN100954 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing in its "Opinion" column under the headline "The Riyadh Meeting and the Lebanese National Demand," *AL-BA'TH* says: In an earnest effort to find the means of consolidating the security plan in Lebanon and stimulating the process of national reconciliation among the various Lebanese sides, a meeting was held in Riyadh the day before yesterday with the participation of the Syrian, Saudi, and Lebanese foreign ministers. This meeting can be considered as a continuation of the discussions that began in Damascus late last year among the three ministers. Perhaps any follower of the developments, especially those taking place in Lebanon, realizes that throughout the phases of the Lebanese crisis, Syria has always been concerned with stabilizing Lebanese security and creating the right atmosphere for a real national dialogue among the various Lebanese brothers to plug all loopholes and close all ranks for the sake of restoring the desired national unity and Lebanon's national role on the domestic, Arab, and international levels. If the Geneva conference with its declared firm positive results has paved the way for continuous agreement on security plans and cease-fire arrangements and taken the first difficult step toward national dialogue, the 17 May agreement is still the main obstacle to reaching a final visualization of a unified independent Lebanon. It also still has its negative effects on the map of Lebanon to the extent that the cancellation of this agreement has become the most pressing national demand.

U.S. pressure in favor of Zionist interests which forces Lebanon to adhere to this agreement of submission must not lead to any interest in keeping the U.S. forces on Lebanese territory. On the contrary, it should lead to dropping the wager on the United States, especially after it has become directly involved in the conflict by siding with Israel.

Syria, which is participating in every meeting to help fraternal Lebanon overcome its present crisis, will not spare any effort to give every possible aid to stabilize security and push the national dialogue toward more successes. At the same time, however, it cannot ignore any national demand that will help restore Lebanon to its right place, in its internal structure and in its pan-Arab commitments, as has always been known by its own people and Arab brothers.

Commentary Views Prospects of U.S.-Syrian Dialogue

JN091524 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, officials in Washington are making statements on a dialogue with Syria and the desire to continue this dialogue in order to achieve positive results. These statements increased after Syria's humane initiative toward the American people and Rev Jesse Jackson of releasing U.S. pilot Robert Goodman. One who is removed from the situation may think that the U.S. Government is really interested in holding a positive and constructive dialogue, and that the problem is Syria's stand and not the U.S. stand. The truth is completely contrary, and the provocative, aggressive, and untrue statements President Reagan and his senior assistants made both before and after Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's visit to Washington, which coincided with dangerous military escalation and provocative aggressive military actions against Syria, are the evidence.

At that time, the U.S. Government opted for dialogue with Syria through the gun, plane, and warship. Syria rejects this dialogue in part and parcel. Syria also rejects holding any dialogue under threats and force. As President Hafiz al-Asad said: Syria rejects dialogue through guns; Syria will strongly defend itself and face aggression with all available resources. The United States tried the method of threats and force with Syria, but it failed. The United States will also fail in the future if it tries to hold a dialogue with Syria through guns.

Syria respects dialogue on the basis of equality, mutual respect, concern about peace, and respect for UN principles and international law. At the same time, Syria will not hesitate for one moment to confront any aggression calling for legitimate self-defense by using all available resources in the local, regional, and international arenas in order to deter the aggression and force the aggressor to pay heavily for its aggression.

Merely beginning a dialogue is not a positive action, and will not lead to positive results. This is because the attempt to impose definite ideas — which are not based on justice, truth, and law — on another party — which refuses to submit and capitulate, and which is concerned about national will and rights — makes the dialogue fruitless. The United States' problem is not with Syria, but with the U.S. Middle East policy. The U.S. policy ignores the main points of any solution to the region's main problems. The points are: recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and rejecting the confiscation by force of other countries' territories. This matter is stipulated in the UN Charter.

If the United States, which has always claimed that it defends human rights, dignity, and freedom, does not recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and if it does not support the prohibition of confiscating other countries' territories by force, then its dialogue with Syria and the other Arab parties that adhere to truth and territory will be fruitless. It will only revolve around details that do not tackle the crux of the region's crisis. If the U.S. policy remains an expression of the expansionist Israeli plans and an expression of the desire to spread U.S.-Israeli hegemony in the region, the U.S. dialogue will be an expression of the Israeli stands that are contrary to the UN principles and resolutions. Consequently, the U.S. stand will be the obstacle that will prevent the dialogue from achieving positive results.

Radio Assails Jordan's Parliamentary Changes

JN061600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, within a new step to cancel the PLO, the Palestinian people's legitimate representative, and with the aim of reviving the united kingdom plan, the Jordanian Government has decided to dissolve the present National Consultative Council and to invite the Parliament elected in 1967 to reconvene — the Parliament that comprises a number of Palestinian members from the East and West Banks.

The 1974 Rabat summit resolutions stipulated that the PLO is the legitimate representative and official spokesman of the Palestinian people. According to these resolutions, on which Jordan agreed, the 1967 Parliament was frozen in order to give way for the PLO as politically and militarily responsible for the Palestinian people living inside and outside occupied Palestine. The new Jordanian decision to revive the 1967 Parliament is a blatant violation and scandalous challenge to the Rabat Arab summit and all the resolutions of the various Arab summits which have affirmed that the PLO is the only party responsible for the Palestinian people. Furthermore, this Jordanian decision is an advanced step on the road to holding negotiations with Israel, particularly since King Husayn has received a promise, with 'Arafat's consensus, that Jordan is the party that will lead the negotiations instead of the real representatives of the Palestinians. This is a condition that Israel has set forth for Jordan in order to accept negotiations with King Husayn.

The Jordanian regime's dreams of annexing what Israel may give of the West Bank and Gaza to Jordan are old and well known. It seems that the Jordanian regime, in order to fulfil these dreams, is ready to implement them according to the Zionist plans that seek expansionism and military and economic hegemony. It also seems that the Jordanian king has found a suitable opportunity

to fulfil these dreams or to begin their fulfilment in the current Arab situation, particularly since he is supported by certain Arab regimes and by 'Arafat, who has sold Palestinian blood very cheaply after his fabrication of discord and differences among Palestinian ranks, the most dangerous of which was the internecine fighting in Tripoli, in order to reach this extent in the conspiracy against Palestine and its people.

All world efforts, particularly those by France and the United States, and the Arab efforts of those well known countries which aim at liquidating the Palestine question through holding negotiations with Israel by weak Palestinian representation from the revived House of Representatives will not succeed in canceling the effective Palestinian role in the Palestine arena. This role alone has the right to talk on behalf of the Palestinian people. This is a fact that has been affirmed by the various Arab summit resolutions.

No Arab party has the right to act unilaterally to solve the Palestine question because it is a pan-Arab cause representing the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arab arena is not vacant for the Jordanian regime and 'Arafat alone. The Arab masses are able to abort all types of conspiracies and will not be deceived by the new colors and forms that are trying to peddle the liquidation plans under new names and titles.

Palestine Broadcast on King Husayn, 'Arafat Moves
JN082016 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: Undoubtedly, King Husayn's action in recalling the old Jordanian Parliament, including the representatives of the West Bank, was not among the plans and calculations of Yasir 'Arafat. The action must have come as a surprise to him at a moment when he thought that his visit to Cairo and his meeting with Husni Mubarak would win him a new card, serving his capitulatory and liquidationist line.

By knocking on Husni Mubarak's door, Yasir 'Arafat wanted to enter Camp David as a side representing the Palestinians at the negotiation table so that in the end he would obtain the post of governor in the autonomy, which he accepted as a solution.

However, King Husayn also had his own calculations. If the dissolution of the House of the Representatives had been in harmony with the Rabat and Casablanca summit resolution, considering the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the recalling of the Jordanian Parliament now means that King Husayn has absolved himself of that resolution.

Thus, the policy of the Palestinian rightwing, represented by the line of 'Arafat and his supporters in the Fatah Central Committee, has once again proved its failure and bankruptcy. 'Arafat's resort to force in dealing with the Fatah upheaval and the subsequent failure of this approach, his resort to Husni Mubarak's regime and placing his fate in the hands of the Egyptian leader, and the stab that the Jordanian king has dealt him now despite the dialogue which he held with the Jordanian regime and his agreement to the confederation plan; all this proves one basic fact, namely that the compromising line of the rightwing is a failure. Saving the Palestinian arena from the destructive results of this line is only possible by purging this arena of the Palestinian rightwing and freeing it from its worthless, deviationist leadership which has gone so far as to commit treason.

If since his arrival in Tunis Yasir 'Arafat has begun reorganizing his affairs and his rightwing leadership in what looks like a full rightwing bourgeoisie coup in the Palestinian arena, this does not scare our people's strugglers and toiling classes, because these strugglers and toiling classes know how to protect their revolution on the real ground of struggle, not in remote hotels and places of exile which the rightwing has chosen for itself. The rightwing's sole concern now is to preserve its mutlinational companies and turn into an international commercial concern after it has failed to lead the revolution and to stab the struggle march.

Fatah Public Rally Held in Damascus 6 Jan
JN070710 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Fatah, the General Command of the Al-'Asifah forces, this evening held a public rally on the 19th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. The rally was attended by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party; a number of the party's National Command members; members of the party's Palestinian Regional Command; Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the leadership of the Libyan 1 September Revolution; Khalid al-Fahum, PNC speaker; a number of the PLO Executive Committee members; a number of general secretaries of the Palestinian revolution groups; the leaders of the Fatah uprising; Brigadier Tariq al-Khadra, chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army; and a number of the Army's high-ranking officers. The rally was also attended by representatives of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the National Salvation Front [NSF], a number of Arab and socialist countries' ambassadors in Damascus, and a large number of brother Palestinian and Syrian citizens.

The rally began with 1 minute of silence in respect and honor of the Arab nation's martyrs. Both the Syrian and Palestinian national anthems were played.

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar delivered the Ba'th Party's speech in which he greeted the revolutionaries of Palestine in the name of Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the party, and the state, affirming that the revolutionaries are pursuing struggle to liberate their land and regain their rights, and thus are challenging the Zionist enemy, U.S. imperialism, and all agents, deviationists, and traitors. He emphasized Syria's firm stand of struggle with the Palestinian revolution for liberation, unity, and progress. He noted that without the liberation of Palestine, the road will not be paved for achieving our nation's objectives of unity, freedom, progress, and building its socialist community.

Al-Ahmar described the Palestinian revolution's inception as not an ordinary event, but a positive revolutionary one in the course of contemporary Arab history and the general Arab struggle. He

said: The events that followed the inception of this revolution were full with the developments in our region and the world, which concentrated on the conflict between our Arab nation and Zionism, which seeks to replace the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. He affirmed that both the Arab nation and the Palestinian people will not accept this reality. Consequently, they have rebelled against this in an attempt to change it in order to serve the homeland and the nation.

Al-Ahmar affirmed that our conflict with Zionism is one of existence, and said: The setbacks that faced us were eliminated and removed when our nation confronted all types of invasions and defeated the invaders and occupiers and evacuated them from the Arab territory. He described the ties between Syria and Palestine as not being organic or accidental because Palestine is Syria, and Syria is Palestine. Hence, the cohesion between the Palestinian revolution and Syria has been present since the beginning, and the alliance between them has been based on our nation's principles of unity, liberation, and progress.

Major Jallud delivered a speech in which he greeted Syria, the Palestinian revolution, and their cohesion in the common struggle. He called for supporting the Palestinian armed struggle against the Israeli invasion troops and the Multinational Forces. He described the Fatah uprising as a major turning point in the Palestinian revolution's history and denounced the plotters against the Arab struggle and just Arab causes. He hailed, in the name of Libyan masses, the cohesion of Syria, Palestine, and the Lebanese nationalist forces, stressing the need to strengthen this cohesion in order to serve our Arab masses.

PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum delivered a speech in which he said: Since the first day of the armed Palestinian revolution in 1965, there has been a cohesion between this revolution and the struggle of Syria, because Syria is the lung of the Palestinian revolution, and there will be no revolution without Syria. Therefore, we must says that Palestinian-Syrian cohesion is the cornerstone of our struggle. We see in Arab Syria under Struggler President Hafiz al-Asad our impregnable fortress and great hope to confront all the Zionist and imperialist designs.

Al-Fahum denounced those who attempt to harm the Palestinian revolution and described Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo as ignoring the Palestinian people, their achievements, and struggle. He also expressed the Palestinian revolution's rejection of Camp David and all the U.S. plans.

Nadim 'Abd as-Samad delivered a speech on behalf of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement. He greeted the 19th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution and the revolutionary upheaval movement which has achieved great victories during its struggle against the deviationist course. He said: We are celebrating with the real revolutionary forces at a time when we are determined more than at any time before to pursue and escalate the armed struggle in order to regain the national Palestinian rights, to strike at all attempts at deviation and relinquishment, and to put an end to tyranny, individualism, disruption of institutions, and corruption which harmed the revolution and its closest allies. He then pointed out that the participation of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in this celebration is an expression of our entrenched conviction of the unity of destiny, and that this alliance with revolutionary Syria is the noblest manifestation in our modern Arab history.

Nimr Salih [Abu Salih], a leader in the upheaval movement in Fatah, delivered a speech in which he greeted the 19th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, which began with the Fatah movement, and put the Palestinian Arab people on the steps of revolutionary action and struggle to liberate the homeland and deter the Zionist invaders from Palestine. Hereviewed the efforts of the deviationist leadership under 'Arafat to freeze the political program that the Fatah movement approved in its fourth conference and to ignore the Palestinian National Charter and the PNC resolutions. He stressed that the fighters of the Palestinian revolution will not allow 'Arafat and his clique to liquidate the fighting force of the Palestinian revolution or replace it by any other political institution. He said that the Palestinian masses will prevent them from destroying the PLO and cancelling its role.

At the end of his speech, Salih greeted the souls of the Arab nation's martyrs; the steadfast kinfolk in the occupied homeland; the valiant fighters; the hero Syrian people and their nationalist forces led by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; the leader of our people's march President Hafiz al-Asad, the symbol of steadfastness in the face of the U.S. design; the Libyan and PDRY presidents; and the Lebanese NSF. He also greeted the states of the socialist bloc, foremost being the USSR, that stand resolutely alongside our people in their just struggle, and all the free men in the world who support the Palestinian question and our just struggle.

PLO's AL-Fahum Receives Iranian Official in Damascus

LD051729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jan 83

[Text] The political under secretary to our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is heading a delegation to Damascus in order to convey a written message from Mr Khamene'i, the president of the republic, last night met with Khalid al-Fahum, PNC chairman. During the meeting discussions covered the developments in the region in connection with the Palestinian problem and the struggles waged by the Muslim people of Lebanon against the acts of aggression and crimes perpetrated by the Zionist regime and its Western allies, particularly the United States and France, and the plot aimed at returning the Egyptian regime to the Arab fold, which has recently intensified on the eve of the conference of Islamic leaders in Morocco. During the meeting the two sides condemned the recent meeting between 'Arafat and Husni Mubark aimed at supporting the plots hatched by the United States and reactionary regimes for the purpose of returning the Egyptian regime to the Arab League and expanding the Camp David accord.

Al-Ahmar Receives ELF-RC Delegation 8 Jan

JN081401 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today

received a delegation of the Eritrean Liberation Front- Revolutionary Council [ELF-RC] led by ELF-RC leader 'Abdallah Idris, and in the presence of brothers (Saleh Ayay) and ('Umar al-Jabir) members of the ELF-RC Central Committee.

During the meeting, the talks dealt with the cooperation relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the ELF-RC, the recent developments in the Arab region regarding the Eritrean issue, and the Lebanese situation. Brother 'Abdallah Idris expressed appreciation to the Ba'th Party and Syria for their support for the Eritrean struggle. He also conveyed congratulations in the name of the ELF-RC on the recovery of struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic, and appreciation for Syria's principled stand under President al-Asad toward confronting the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against Arab issues.

Faruq ash-Shar' on Marine Headquarter Explosion

JN090622 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] In a statement to the U.S. television network CBS yesterday, Syrian Minister of State for Foreign Afairs Faruq ash-Shar' said that his country had intended to condemn the U.S. Marines headquarters explosion in Beirut but it did not do so when U.S.Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger accused Syria of sharing part of the responsibility for the operation. Syria did not want to give the impression that it had succumbed to U.S. pressure, Ash-Shar' said.

The Syrian minister also said that Syria did not have any connection with this operation which resulted in the death of 241 U.S. soldiers. He added that the Syrian Government regrets the operation and expresses its sympathy toward the victims. Ash-Shar' further added: Regrettably, more U.S. soldiers will certainly be killed as long as the U.S. forces are present in Lebanon.

Shamir Addresses Zionist Executive Committee

TA091540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel wants to bring its soldiers home, but will not permit the terrorists' return to Lebanese soil. Those increasing terrorism in Lebanon are making a terrible mistake if they think that by doing so they will accelerate Israel's departure from there, Yitzhaq Shamir declared from the podium of the Zionist Executive Committee in Jerusalem.

On Ari'el Sharon's candidacy for the post of head of the Zionist Federation's Immigration Department, Shamir said the best forces should be recruited for the post. He is happy about the possibility that Sharon will take the mission upon himself. "I have no doubt the man is suitable," he said, "and I support him with all my heart."

The prime minister called for the creation of a calm atmosphere through dialogue in order to allow the country to overcome its economic difficultiies. He asked the workers to stop their sanctions before they lose what they have already achieved.

More on Shamir Address

TA100913 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English9 Jan 84

["Excerpts" of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's address to the Zionist General Council session in Jerusalem, on 9 January, as reported by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] "The clearest manifestation of the failure of violence as a means of defeating Israel has recently been emphasized after the military destruction of the PLO, first in Beirut a year ago, and later in Tripoli a few weeks ago. The constant wanderings of 'Arafat's defeated troops from one state to another, from one country to the next, demonstrate and prove to the Arab nations, and primarily to the Arabs of the land of Israel, that the path of violence and war against Israel does not lead to any objective, will not succeed, and will ultimately lead to failure and disappointment for all who tread it. The various tricks of the PLO, its ostentatious meetings in various parts of the world, will not hide its failure, this waste of strength, human life, and huge sums of money, to no end. The Arab peoples and the Arabs of the land of Israel must understand that the way of war with Israel, the way of terror, must be abandoned once and for all. The way must be sought for peaceful coexistence with Israel.

"In order for there to be peace and security along our common border with Lebanon, there must be a responsible Lebanese element which will control the other side of the border and prevent the organization of hostile elements in Lebanon. By the same token, it is self-evident that, in order for the Government of Lebanon to be sovereign and independent and in control of its territory, the country must be free of the presence of foreign forces. These two objectives — the independence of Lebanon and the withdrawal of all foreign forces — are shared by us, the U.S. Government, the Western nations and the whole of the free world. That is why we are cooperating with any element which desires peace and stability in our region. Israel is not threatening Syria and it harbors no aggressive intentions towards it. If this were not so, we would not have signed the agreement with Lebanon, which explicitly states that IDF forces will withdraw from Lebanese soil in return for appropriate security arrangements. We want to bring our soldiers home; but our enemies should not delude themselves with the thought that we will permit the return of the threat to our territory from south Lebanon.

We are encountering many terrorist actions against IDF soldiers in Lebanon. These actions are carried out by various organizations and groups under the influence of the nearby Palestinian terrorist organizations. If the initiators and organizers of this activity intend that, under pressure of these attacks, Israel will hasten to leave Lebanese soil, then they are making a grave mistake. Israel has no interest or desire to stay in Lebanon one extra day. It is looking for ways to safeguard its northern border through security measures. On the day, the moment when it will be possible to establish these security arrangements, Israel will willingly leave Lebanon. And all those who harm IDF soldiers, instead of hastening our departure from Lebanon, are delaying it, since they increase our concern that if we leave Lebanon and return to the international border, then all those terrorist forces will follow us and advance to our border, and this we shall of course never allow. Only a quiet, secure, and stable situation in southern Lebanon will enable the IDF to leave all of Lebanon without any difficulty or hesitation.

"Our interests and those of the United States overlap and are even identical to a great extent, since the U.S. is acting in our region to increase stability and extend peace. The American Administration agrees that cooperation and increased coordination in the strategic and political spheres between it and Israel will increase stability and promote the chances for peace in the Middle East. For this purpose, instruments have been set up for the establishment and increase of the dialogue between us. I have no doubt that constant cooperation between Israel and the United States is an asset, not only to Israel, but to the region as a whole.

"With all the appreciation and importance we grant to our cooperation with the United States, we should not forget for a minute that there are disagreements between us and the U.S. on vital issues concerning our borders and security. The phenomenon of disagreements between friends and allies is no cause for concern. We are not unusual in this regard, and we must remember that we are faced with an important task, which will require a very significant political, intellectual, and organizational effort: The task of persuading our friends in the United States. In those vital areas of disagreement, Israel is right. We hope that in the atmosphere of friendship and cooperation which exists between us, the ears will be more attentive and the heart more open to receive our Zionist truth."

Jerusalem Arabic Notes Shamir Call for Dialogue

JN092022 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has called on King Husayn of Jordan to enter into dialogue with Israel in order to reach a solution based on the Camp David accords, which are

considered to be the only means of realizing peace on our eastern border and of safeguarding the Arab inhabitants' interests in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Shamir's pronouncements were made at a World Zionist Organization executive Committee meeting held in Jerusalem today. He said that the recent developments which the PLO has experienced, and which resulted in the destruction of its military capability in Beirut and then in Tripoli, prove that the method of war and violence against Israel will not realize any objective and that it will be doomed to failure.

Shamir also asserted that the Arab people and the country's Arab inhabitants must understand the need to completely abandon the method of terrorism and to seek coexistence with Israel. He also added that the peace treaty with Egypt and the agreement with Lebanon constitute the first step toward peaceful coexistence, regardless of the difficulties that are facing this issue.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, he said: Israel has waged a battle for the safety of Galilee in order to end terrorist actions against Israel that came from the Lebanese territories. He added: We want the Lebanese Government to be independent and to extend its supremacy over all Lebanese territories. He also added that all of the foreign forces should be evacuated from the Lebanese territories in order to achieve this goal, a goal that we, the U.S. Administration, and all countries of the free world are seeking.

Shamir also affirmed that Israel has no aggressive intentions against Syria, and that Israel does not threaten Syria in any form. He added that the IDF soldiers are being subjected to increasing terrorist actions in Lebanon and that those behind these terrorist actions are mistaken if they believe Israel will hasten to leave the Lebanese territories. He added: Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon unless it achieves a satisfactory security arrangement to guarantee peace and security on its northern border.

Shamir Explain Economy Views, Government Status

TA101029 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by Yosef Harif]

[Text] "I appealed to the Histadrut to give a hand in stabilizing the economy, contributing to calm in labor relations and examining ways, together with the government and employers, to improve the condition of the country and the workers' sector. The test will come in the meeting between the finance minister, the Histadrut secretary and the employers' representative today. If the Histadrut does not agree to work sincerely to calm the economic situation and make a practical dialogue possible, the conclusion will be that it is avoiding an agreement for political reasons."

These remarks were made last night by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in a special interview with *MA'ARIV*.

In the *MA'ARIV* interview the prime minister was asked: The public has the growing feeling that the government is helpless and doubts whether the government can implement its decision regarding the cuts in the state budget. What is your answer to this?

Prime Minister Shamir replied: Cuts involving tens of billions of shekels are not a simple matter, for we are talking of painful moves here. The ministers should seriously decide what they can give up in their ministries and what action to take so that the cuts do not make the life of the citizens too difficult. Can this be accomplished overnight?

"No, this can not be done with the stroke of a pen," the prime minister stated, "certainly not when the cuts may lead to dismissals and have implications for services rendered to the entire public. It is not at all simple. It is good that the government is very careful about this complex issue and discusses it with the utmost earnestness. Finally, and this will be "within days," the decision on the cuts will be made. [quotation marks in paragraph as published]

Later, and possibly simultaneously, we will need to resort to other remedies, too.

Question: The TAMI faction is demanding more funds and in fact is threatening that if the budget of the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry is cut, it will withdraw from the coalition. Are you taking this threat into consideration?

Shamir: The TAMI leaders should be asked this question. As far as I understand their intention at this stage, there is no fear of this happening.

Question: There is the impression that the government is disintegrating and will not last long. Are you not afraid of the fate facing your government?

Shamir: I do not feel that way. This is how the subject is reflected in the communications media, but there is no coalition faction undermining the government's policy. There are differences of opinion, indeed, but I do not believe that these disagreements necessarily undermine the government.

Question: What about the ferment among the Agudat Yisra'el faction?

Shamir: There is no ferment in Agudat Yisra'el. One of Agudat Yisra'el's bodies held a meeting, at which criticism was voiced. There was also concern expressed against the background of the dire economic situation, just as we have heard from other circles who are worried about the situation. However, based on my close relations with the Agudat Yisra'el Knesset members, I can say there is no room for concern.

Shamir added: "I was told that in that meeting somebody talked about the possibility of forming a coalition with the Alignment because of the economic situation. Eventually each one of them will realize there is no solution to the economic problems other than that proposed by the government.

Does the Alignment have a formula for stabilizing the economy in a short and simple manner? It is no surprise that we have not heard the Alignment's spokesman mention such a formula because it simply does not exist. [No closing quotation marks published]

Question: What is your opinion of the proposal by coalition MK's Berman and Zeigerman to freeze the building of settlements for economic reasons?

Shamir: This is inconceivable to me. The reason for freezing the settlements is immaterial; it is the actual move that is important. There is no doubt that such a move would be immediately invested with political significance. Nobody will believe that such a move stems from economic considerations.

Shamir added: "It is true there are priorities in the economy and that the state cannot provide for everything at the same time. This is why we are cutting the defense, social welfare, education and also settlement budgets, but no special action is necessary beyond this. [No closing quotation mark published]

Question: Mr prime minister, allow me to repeat the question about the status of your government. Do you really not feel that its days are numbered?

Shamir: "A government which relies on a coalition, especially a narrow-base coalition, always faces dangers, even in ordinary times without such economic difficulties. This is all the more true when there is an opposition which is on the alert for every possible error all the time. Therefore, I said I am not worried but there is certainly a reason for alertness."

Arens Comments on Lebanese Situation

TA092044 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2010 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Bat Yam, 9 Jan (ITIM) — Defense Minister Moshe Arens this evening said that Israel is working on a departure from Lebanon and there is a chance that this may succeed just as we succeeded in our pullout from the Ash-Shuf area. However, it is clear that a careless and rash pullout will only create anarchy there, will enable the terrorists to return and will cause great problems for the inhabitants in northern Israel.

The minister was speaking at a forum of the Bat Yam Herut movement youth. He admitted that Israel was going through a very difficult period but noted that Eretz Yisra'el had never been devoid of troubles. "We always see the short-term troubles and we hasten to criticize. However, when one looks farther at our past achievements or ahead at our future objectives, one realizes that this is actually a series of difficulties and problems which ultimately lead us to great achievements," Arens said.

Referring to the situation in Lebanon, the defense minister called for a rejection of the despairing advice of those calling for an immediate pullout and departure from Lebanon. Let us not forget, he said, that absolute calm has prevailed in the Galilee and northern Israel for the last 1 and 1/2 years.

The defense minister spoke at length about the achievements of the Peace for Galilee Operation in terms of security for the inhabitants of the north and noted that there is no knowing what the life expectancy would be of a country that is unable to ensure the physical security of its citizens. "We are on the watch in Lebanon; at times there are victims and at times there are difficulties. However, we should not forget that life proceeds normally in the rearguard — and this is the main thing; it could not be otherwise," he said. Arens added that Israel does not have any territorial claims in Lebanon. "We left Ash-Shuf area and we want to maintain this direction but on one condition — that the proper security arrangements and the security of the Galilee are guaranteed," he said.

The defense minister added that by getting out of Ash-Shuf area Israel almost fulfilled its objectives. "We left but we did not leave enemies or hostile elements behind us but rather people who were ready to promise that they would not operate against us from that area. At present, we are waiting for the moment when we can evacuate other areas, to rid ourselves of the burden of controlling and policing Lebanon once these jobs are undertaken by friendly local elements who will stand up to the commitment undertaken by the Lebanese Government in its agreement with us, namely, to prevent acts of hostility against Israel," he stated. In this context, Minister Arens pointed out that although the Lebanese Government is still having trouble controlling its country properly, the situation is not hopeless. As for the situation in Judaea and Samaria, the defense minister said that data in his possession shows beyond a doubt that the number of disturbances and stonethrowing incidents has decreased recently.

Mr Arens pointed out that in all the talks he has been holding with Arab dignitaries from Judaea and Samaria, he has noticed a more realistic approach and that despite the frequently sharp differences of opinion, he sees more understanding and realization of the need to live together under Israeli rule. "Some of them are realizing that a final political solution is still far away and that they will gain nothing through terror and violence and, therefore, both peoples must make joint efforts to coexist. Although there are also extremists, the number of those who reject the value of violence and believe in the need to coexist is increasing — and this is a very big achievement," he added.

AFP: Arens on Redeployment

BK100237 Hong Kong AFP in English 0233 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, Jan 10 (AFP) — The Israeli army may soon redeploy its troops in southern Lebanon, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said at Bat Yam, near here, Monday night. He said there were "good reasons to believe" that Israel would be able to make new arrangements for pulling its troops back closer to Israel, a follow-up to last year's retrenchment southward from the Ash-Shuf mountains to the Al-Awwali River line. Mr Arens said the government's aim was to bring the troops back to Israeli territory, but that this could not be done before Israel received credible security guarantees for its northern frontier.

Chief of Staff Moshe Levi on Syria, Lebanon

TA061103 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jan 84 pp 1,2

[Report by Yo'el Marcus]

[Text] Chief of Staff Moshe Levi said: "From the aspect of the military balance of forces, it is not to our disadvantage for Syria to continue to be deployed in Lebanon." In this way, in fact, he

confirmed the change that has occurred in the government's approach, which no longer makes the evacuation of Lebanon dependent on the removal of "all foreign forces."

In an exclusive interview yesterday in his office, he disclosed that the IDF had not discussed a departure in stages or the creation of new lines in Lebanon. The chief of staff let it be understood that the IDF was recommending to the government that its stay in Lebanon be ended upon the completion of the arrangements which will guarantee that we are not forced to return there [as received, line dropped in text] so that it will be able to prepare itself for future wars and deal with its main goals." He criticized the Jewish settlers sharply, those who "use their weapons illegally," and warned against far-reaching cuts to the defense budget.

Answering a question about the Syrian presence in Lebanon, an answer which seemed to me to contain an undertone of criticism against those who had conceived the idea of the Lebanon war, Lieutenant General Levi said that if there really had been any chance for an independent Lebanon, there should have been insistence on the removal of Syrian forces from there. However, in the current situation and with the comprehensive balance between us and Syria, it is not to our disadvantage that Syria should also be deployed in Lebanon. It is not true that being there is no problem for the Syrians. "From the strategic viewpoint of the Syrian Army's division of forces and burdens, it would not limit us if they stayed there even after we are gone." From what he said, it was possible to understand that the collapse of the principles of the grandiose plan had made the demand for Syria's removal from Lebanon impractical from the political aspect, and not harmful from the aspect of Israel's security interests.

Lt Gen Levi refused to give a direct answer to my question about whether the IDF was putting pressure on the political echelons to leave Lebanon ("I do not like the term 'to leave'"). At the same time, he did provide an indirect answer, by commenting that the less the IDF has to deal with routine security, either in Lebanon or Nabulus, the better off it is, because this is a burden on the army, which is being forced to invest military efforts that are out of proportion to the main security target. "If, nevertheless, the conclusion is that we must leave Lebanon, this could be interpreted as if we were under pressure. But we cannot say anything. If, Heaven forbid, we are helpless, people will come to us, and rightly so, with complaints about why we did not say so."

The chief of staff went on to say that the clarifications over what he calls the "outline plan" for a further stay in Lebanon were almost completed. He ordered the new evaluation a few days before the withdrawal to the Al-Awwali, and the substance of his order was: "To examine our further stay in Lebanon against the ability to attain our goals against the Syrian Army wherever it is, as well as the affect on the IDF." The evaluation of the situation was made by three separate bodies. It is not an operational plan, but proposals for different options.

In his approach to a continuation of the stay in Lebanon, he sees several principles: 1) comprehensive planning for a departure, and no more new lines. It is true that a departure in stages is tempting, but it could actually cause an extension of our stay. 2) Guaranteeing a complicated system of arrangements that create a reasonable security situation, so that the IDF does not have to go back there in force. 3) Not to decide on a target date, which would, itself, be a time bomb: "We must actualize the arrangements, and only then will we set a departure date. Setting the date should be a technical matter, not a goal." 4) In the model he sees for the future of southern Lebanon, there will be cooperation with various elements in the field. "The withdrawal from Ash-Shuf area fulfilled all our security expectations, and we must come to an arrangement with all elements in the field." 5) At the same time, he warned against being too precipitate and against easy, popular solutions in the wake of which the IDF will have to pay a higher price.

Discussing the territories, Levi said it would be better for the IDF not to be in charge of security there; but if a stone is thrown, the problem must be dealt with, and this is not a question of deciding on a new policy every day. "But I do not want 'helpers'. They provide more risks than benefits." He regards the "helpers" and "their aid" with great gravity. "Their aid — particularly what has occurred recently — is causing us damage. They are damaging the ethical use of arms and, in the long-term view, I regard the use of weapons for illegal purposes as a grave act per se."

On the cuts to the defense budget, he said that the establishment had already lost $300 million of the U.S. aid, and if further cuts were required, it would affect future development and equipment. "We might have to provide different kind of security for the nation, and we will have to deal with this."

POST: Unilateral Pullout Considered

TA090756 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Jan 84 pp 1,2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Text] While Israel is still formally committed to seek the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, the government would consider withdrawing without a simultaneous Syrian withdrawal if effective security arrangements for Galilee could be ensured.

This has been the trend of Israeli thinking for some months. But it could become of relevance soon if current two-tier negotiations in Lebanon succeed.

The negotiations between the warring factions, mediated by the Saudis and involving the Syrians and (behind the scenes) the Israelis, seemed stymied last night. Earlier, a security agreement for the Beirut area had seemed all but concluded.

Israeli officials blamed Syria yesterday for throwing a spanner in the works at the last minute through Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt. But Israeli experts still hoped the agreement would be achieved. One theory here was that Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad is posing problems, only to solve them later to demonstrate that he is the key factor in the Lebanese equation.

If this security agreement takes hold in the Greater Beirut area, the Lebanese Army is to take up positions southwards along the coastal highway, as well as in the Ash-Shuf Mountains. As the next stage, the Lebanese Army would cross the Al-Awwali and

take over areas now held by the IDF.
Parallel with the negotiations over the Beirut pact, talks are going ahead on a broader political settlement. The U.S. presidental envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, is intimately involved in them, and he shared some of his impressions with Premier Shamir in Jerusalem on Friday.

A well-placed Israeli source said yesterday there were no breakthroughs yet. But there seems to be a more hopeful atmosphere, engendered in part at least by Syria's goodwill gesture in releasing the captured American airman last week.

There was some discussion of Lebanon policy at the Cabinet yesterday and Shamir promised a full-scale debate soon.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor, on orders from the premier, took the opportunity to issue a denial of recent press reports predicting an imminent unilateral pullback by the IDF.

"Our policy has not changed," Meridor told newsmen. "We want to bring the IDF back home as early as possible while protecting the key achievement of the war: the peace of Galillee. The way to do that is by adhering to the May, 1983 agreement between Israel and Lebanon. One of the pillars of this agreement is the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon."

This presentation by the Cabinet secretary made clear the position that has been Israeli policy ever since Shamir and Defence Minister Arens took over from Menahem Begin and Ariel Sharon; the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon is no longer an end in itself for Israel, but a means to an end — the security of the northern border.

"If a way could be worked out in practice," said a defence source last night, "for us to secure Galilee without the Syrians leaving all of Lebanon — we would go for it."

The U.S., the source continued, which was the first to demand withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, would presumably also make do with less than total withdrawal by the Syrians — if a satisfactory and balanced settlement could be achieved. "After all, they want to bring their Marines home too."

Shamir has been careful not to express this flexible approach in formal Israeli statements, believing in the words of one Cabinet source, that adherence to the initial negotiating position is the right tactic so long as there is no "give" on the other side.

Said another Cabinet source last night: "If you have a formal position — stick with it, especially since there is no viable alternative on the horizon."

This source noted that "there might be officials somewhere, or army officers toying with this or that scenario. But nothing has been put on the Cabinet table." And therefore the formal position was still the position of the Cabinet.

IDF Opens Second Al-Awwali Bridge 9 Jan

TA100540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The army yesterday opened an additional crossing over the Al-Awwali River in south Lebanon. Reporter Hayim Hecht says the second bridge was opened on instructions from Defense Minister Moshe Arens to ease the flow of traffic between south Lebanon and the rest of the country. The new crossing is about 1 km inland from the one currently used on the coastal road, and it will be for north-bound traffic only. Movement south, which requires much stricter security checks, will continue to use the coastal road bridge.

S. Lebanese Shi'ites Growing Hostile to Israel

TA100918 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jan 84 p 1

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] Metullah — Shi'ite villagers in southern Lebanon near the Israeli border, who until recently were relatively quiet and cooperated with the Israel Defence Forces, have started showing signs of hostility to Israel.

Shi'ite religious leaders have been inciting their followers against Israel. However, there have been no attacks yet on Israeli soldiers or installations.

Husayn Asan, imam of At-Tayyibah village, one kilometre north of Kibbutz Misgav 'Am, over the weekend delivered a sermon in his mosque in which he called for struggle against "imperialistic Israel, which steals its neighbour's lands."

In At-Tayyibah and other Shi'ite villages, anti-Israeli feeling is being fed by daily radio and television programmes from Beirut and in which extremist Shi'ite leaders call for the Israel Defence Forces to be forced out of Lebanon.

Resentment has grown especially after the recent bombing by the Israel Air Force of Shi'ite terrorist bases in the Al-Biqa' valley.

Rubin 'Abud, a Shi'ite resident of Al-'Adsah in south Lebanon, who serves in Major Sa'd Haddad's militia, said Shi'ites in the area are beginning to turn against Israel.

Shi'ites make up a large part of the IDF-sponsored militias that are supposed to keep order in the area and assure quiet on the border after an IDF withdrawal.

Press on Cabinet Stand on Lebanon Withdrawal

TA090746 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] *HATZOFE* says that the clarification made by the Cabinet yesterday that Israel will not pull its forces out of Lebanon before Syria does is proper and timely. Any settlement

in Lebanon is conditional on the implementaion of the agreement signed between Israel and Lebanon in May, whereby the IDF's withdrawal depends on the removal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Israel cannot be influenced by other considerations that may be convenient for the United States. It is incumbent on Israel to insist on the implementation of the agreement and the arrangements stipulated by it, as they alone guarantee peace and security on Israel's northern border.

HA'ARETZ writes that the prime minister sees himself bound to maintain coordination with the U.S. leadership as he promised during his Washington visit. However, coordination is not necessarily a synonym for following the United States and does not compel the Israeli Government not to try to persuade our U.S. friends that they cannot soften Syria's intransigent stance. If the U.S. leadership, too, reaches the conclusion that the presence of the IDF and the Multinational Force are not a lever for the removal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon, it is reasonable to assume that Mr Shamir will lend an ear to what the security bodies have wanted to explain to him for weeks now. However, by then we may pay more with both money and blood for our insistence on our continued military presence in Lebanon.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that Mr Shamir's decision yesterday is an open challenge to the desire of the Israeli people to finally end the adventurous war, some of the supporters of which sobered up a long time ago and joined the large camp which is demanding that our soldiers be returned home. The IDF has nothing to do in Lebanon except be concerned for the safety of our soldiers. This is the only goal for which the IDF allocates gigantic sums of money, manpower, and lives. The safety of our soldiers will be guaranteed when they return home, and then it will be possible to maintain the peace of the Galilee and the safety of our borders in general with fewer resources and more efficiency.

Paper Supports Cabinet Decision

TA091047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Jan 84

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* supports the Cabinet decision not to change its position, which is that the withdrawal from Lebanon should occur simultaneously with the Syrians' withdrawal. The paper believes this decision will help slow down the pace of the U.S. retreat and help dispel Syria's feeling that it has control over Lebanon again.

Finance Minister Postpones U.S. Visit

TA100516 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The finance minister has decided to postpone his visit to Washington because of the economic situation in Israel. He was originally scheduled to go there in a few days for a get-acquainted meeting with U.S. Treasury officials. Finance Ministry Director General Dr 'Imanu'el Sharon will go instead.

TAMI Begins Talks With Alignment Leaders

TA100520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] TAMI's leaders have begun deliberations with the Alignment's leaders. Deputy Minister Ben-Tziyon Rubin has warned that unless the economic plan is altered within 2 weeks in accordance with TAMI's demands, its leaders will reconsider the party's continued participation in the coalition. He says that if the party's leaders determine that the Shamir government is unable to lead the nation, TAMI will withdraw from the coalition and will move to establish an alternative government led by the Alignment. Deputy Minister Rubin was speaking to our correspondent Arye Golan.

Defense, Interior Workers Increase Sanctions

TA080651 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Defense and Interior Ministry workers this morning increased their sanctions. Our military correspondent reports that the Defense Ministry workers are not releasing civilian equipment from the ports, are not paying suppliers and advisers, and are not dealing with tenders and construction. The Interior Ministry workers are stopping their services to the police, border control posts, and courts.

Israeli Radio Appeal to Al-Asad Reported

TA061248 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Jan 84 p 2

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Test] Yesterday, the Voice of Israel in Arabic broadcast an appeal over the air to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to make a humanitarian gesture like the one he made with the U.S. navigator, and to begin negotiations over the release of 293 Syrian officers and men in captivity in Israel.

The appeal to Al-Asad said that the humanitarian consideration could not be disputed, and, "As you acted with regard to the U.S. navigator, so you should act with regard to the Israeli and Syrian prisoners. Despite the state of war between us, the Syrian and Israeli mothers share concern for the fate of their sons and want them brought back home."

The Syrian prisoners in Israel were moved by the Israeli radio appeal, and asked that it be reported that they identified with all their hearts with every word said in it.

POST Editorial Views Jordanian Parliament, 'Arafat

TA080819 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jan 84 p 8

[Editorial: "King Husayn on the Move"]

[Text] The lines within the Arab camp appear to be more clearly drawn, as King Husayn seems determined to reconvene the Jordanian Parliament after nearly 10 years, in resistance to

Syrian and Libyan pressure. A number of deputies from the West Bank have in fact already crossed the Jordan River bridges for Amman to be able to attend the special session of Jordan's lower house scheduled for this week.

The Jordanian Parliament was formally recessed in 1974 when the Arab summit meeting in Rabat recognized the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." King Husayn and part of the Arab camp have come full circle since. This is partly as the much-delayed result of the peace between Egypt and Israel and partly because of the most recent political fall-out of the war in Lebanon. American, Israeli, local Palestinian and Egyptian observers all agree that King Husayn decided to reconvene his dormant parliament, and hold new elections in the spring, in preparation for a meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. This would pave the way for Jordan joining the peace process.

'Arafat's second forced exodus from Lebanon, this time in the wake of bitter fighting between Fatah units loyal to him and Syrian-supported PLO rebels, may have freed him from further commitments toward the more rejectionist factions of the PLO. The urgency of the need to reach agreement with Husayn, the attempt at which eluded 'Arafat last year because of the stiff opposition by the PLO's fanatic wing, was the clear message which emerged from his dramatic meeting last month with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Paradoxically, these recent developments were also precipitated by Israel's stepped-up settlement activities in the West Bank, coupled with measures of creeping annexation. These moves were clearly driving home the message that, before long, almost all options for a peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem might be closed. King Husayn has long recognized this fact, but he has thus far failed to drum up sufficient political courage to join peace talks in defiance of the Arab rejectionist camp.

Given Washington's active encouragement, together with Egypt's — and possibly also Saudi Arabia's — support, the Jordanian monarch may now be able to join the peace process known as President Reagan's initiative. The fact that the American peace plan was still-born when it was first put forward in September 1982, at the height of Israel's successes in Lebanon, does not necessarily mean that it could not be revived under present circumstances.

The U.S. Administration has been consistent in claiming that the Reagan plan was still very much on the cards. King Husayn's decision to reconvene his parliament, possibly paving the way for his involvement in the peace process, would indicate that Washington's behind-the-scenes diplomacy may this time bear fruit.

Should 'Arafat eventually agree to go along with this move, it will be in no small measure due to the fact that, while he still enjoys wide popular support among the Palestinians in the West Bank and in the Gaza district, this support now also represents a clear expression of the desire for political negotiations rather than military or terror action. The Palestinians who have been living under Israeli rule for over 16 years know best that time is not on their side, and that their history is fraught with missed opportunities.

It was wise of the Israeli authorities to have permitted the West Bank deputies to cross into Jordan last Wednesday, although they were certainly aware of the plans to reconvene the Jordanian parliament. One can only hope that the same pragmatic attitude will apply if and when Husayn follows up the reconvening of parliament with further moves towards joining the peace process.

U.S. Congressmen Quote Mubarak on Envoy's Return

TA090758 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Jan 84 p 3

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[Excerpt] Egypt will return its ambassador to Israel after Israel withdraws from Lebanon, after a fair agreement on control over the Tabah beach near Elat, and after "progress in the resolution of the Palestinian problem."

Four U.S. congressmen said they were told this by President Husni Mubarak during their recent three day visit in Egypt. The congressmen, who were in Israel for eight days, and visited Lebanon, were interviewed by *THE JERUSALEM POST* on Saturday night, shortly before they returned home.

According to the congressmen, Mubarak also reported being told by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat that the terrorist organization was not responsible for the Jerusalem bus bombing that killed six persons and injured many more last month, but that he claimed responsibility to enhance his image.

Barney Frank, a Democrat from Massachusetts, said he and his colleagues told Mubarak that they objected to the PLO's terrorist campaign against Israel.

Tom Lewis, a Republican congressman representing a district in Florida, said he was sorry that the Mubarak-'Arafat meeting had been held with the Reagan administration's blessing, since it only lent 'Arafat prestige and credibility. 'Arafat and his men, said Lewis, are clearly a "bunch of terrorists." But Tom Carper, a Democrat from Delaware, added he did not think the meeting between the Egyptian president and 'Arafat was intended by Mubarak as a plot to "gang up with Husayn and 'Arafat against Israel." Rather, he asserted, Mubarak wanted to "seize the moment when the PLO is on the ropes to persuade 'Arafat to negotiate with Israel."

Liberal MK's Submit Motion on Settlements Freeze

TA091316 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Liberal MK's Yitzhaq Berman and Dror Zeigerman support a freeze of settlements due to the dire economic situation and have already submitted a motion to the Knesset agenda on this issue. MK Berman told our correspondent Arye Golan that this motion should not be viewed as a signal to the Alignment that they will help it to assume power and that they support the Alignment's economic policy. Berman emphasized he will not uphold a parliamentary revolution. He supports early elections and the establishment of a national unity government later on.

Levi Promises Continued Building on West Bank

TA091530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Minister David Levi has promised the leaders of the settlements in the territories that despite the cuts, his ministry will try to find ways to continue building in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that in a talk with representatives of the settlements, the deputy prime minister said that construction in the territories would determine the nation's future and so it should not be stopped.

Minister Levi pointed out, however, that his ministry was now planning its budget and calculating the required cuts and so it was still impossible to decide on the scale of construction in the territories next year. The leaders of the settlements demanded that the speed of construction be accelerated and warned that time should not be lost. They will meet with the minister of housing again to discuss plans for next year's construction and development in the territories.

'Arafat Supporters in Territories Threatened

TA080723 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Jan 84 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Dignitaries in the territories who have declared their support for Yasir 'Arafat have in the last few days received anonymous telephone calls from opponents of 'Arafat, who identified themselves as members of "The Saint Halim" group. The identity of this "Saint Halim" is not known. The callers urged the pro-'Arafat dignitaries to stop their support campaign, and stated that they were the ones who threw the explosive charge in the backyard of former Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa who, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, had expressed his support for 'Arafat.

Bethlehem Mayor Comments on Jordanian Parliament

TA090618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The Jordanian parliament convenes this morning for the first itme in more than a decade, a move seen by many as an attempt by King Husayn to revive a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. The deputies from the West Bank have gone to Amman for the session. Reporter Jerry Cheslow asked one of the leading supporters of Jordan in the territories, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, what he expects from the session.

[Begin recording] [Frayj —in progress]... An amendment to Article 73 of the Jordanian constitution and most probably it will deal with the allocation of seats, ways of elections, how the West Bank is to be represented, etc.

[Cheslow] Do you expect the West Bank to retain its 50 percent representation in the Jordanian parliament?

[Frayj] I do not expect that because the inhabitants of the West Bank number about 750,000, wheras the inhabitants of Jordan number over 2.7 million people. Therefore, we are not entitled to more than one quarter of the seats of the parliament.

[Cheslow] Of course this meeting of the parliament comes at a time when King Husayn's role in the negotiations is very much on the cards. [sentence as heard]

[Frayj] They want to make it clear that there is a consensus in the West Bank which supports Jordan and which demands from Jordan to be more politically active. Personally I support King Husayn and his policies. [end recording]

Frayj on PLO Factionalism

TA091236 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The Jordanian parliament reconvenes today for the first time in more than 10 years. It will be discussing new elections and the future of allocation of seats. On the significance of the meeting, Jerry Cheslow:

[Begin recording] [Cheslow] The move is an obvious attempt to muster West Bank support for King Husayn. Even if PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat does not give him the mandate, Husayn apparently wants to negotiate with Israel over the territories, perhaps on the basis of the Reagan plan. The Kuwaiti newspaper *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* even quotes a senior Jordanian official as saying that if 'Arafat does not come to Amman soon, the King will negotiate with the West Bank deputies in his parliament.

At the session today, the king wants a framework for new elections to be worked out. Those elections could take place within 6 months, which is enough time for the king to decide on his next move. On the West Bank, the feeling is that the PLO must talk to Husayn. One of the most prominent Jordan supporters is Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj.

[Frayj] All the Arabs, throughout the Arab world, know that there is not going to be a military solution to the Arab-Israeli crisis. But if the divisions, God forbid, amongst the ranks of the PLO deepen and become unbridgeable, then the question of who represents who will be put on the table.

[Cheslow] Do you, as a Palestinian observer, believe that the divisions are in fact bridgeable after the bloodshed in Tripoli?

[Frayj] I am sorry to say that it looks now as unbridgeable.

[Cheslow] Frayj would not answer the question of whether he believes that 'Arafat would be committing political suicide by not going to Amman, but he says: If the PLO chief does coordinate with Husayn, he will have the support of the Palestinians in the territories and in Jordan, or three-quarters of the Palestinian nation. [end recording]

Jerusalem Denies Ulster Officials Meetings

TA091350 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Jerusalem has denied a claim by members of Parliament from the Protestant extremist party in Northern Ireland that they had met with ministers in Israel and visited security plants. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that the Irishmen's visit had no official status and there is now an investigation as to whether, nevertheless, they happened to meet with Israeli figures. Not long ago the extremist Protestants in Northern Ireland asked the Israeli Embassy in London to help them with Israeli technology for a war against terrorism and for the establishment of a security fence between northern and southern Ireland — all this against members of the Catholic underground.

OAU Conference Opening Postponed Until 10 Jan

NC091637 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jan 9 (AFP) — The opening of the round-table conference called by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to end Chad's civil war was postponed from today until tomorrow, informed sources said here.

The refusal of Chadian President Hissein Habre to attend the conference caused the postponement, the sources added.

Mr Habre cited the welcome of his rival, Goukouni Oueddei, the leader of the Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT), by Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, the current OAU chairman, to Addis Ababa yesterday as the reason for his refusal to attend the conference.

Mr Goukouni and his ally, Colonel Abdel Kader Kamougue, did not want to open negotiations on national reconciliation without the presence of Mr Habre, the sources said.

The Ndjamena government is represented in Addis Ababa by Interior Minister Tahar Guinassou.

OAU spokesman Paul Fuda told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that consultations between Mr Goukouni and Mr Guinassou would permit the conference to open tomorrow.

Procedural Consultations Continue

AB101053 Paris AFP in English 1038 GMT 10 Jan 84

[By Seyoum Ayele]

[Text] Addis Ababa, Jan 10 (AFP) — Consultations continued late into the night on questions of procedure between the Organization of African Unity Secretariat and the various Chadian delegations in the Ethiopian capital to pave the way for the formal opening of the roundtable conference on Chad, postponed by 24 hours apparently for lack of an acceptable formula.

There has been nothing here so far to dispel the fear that the glaring absence of Chadian President Hissein Habre from the talks, aimed at working out a peace plan for Chad, would undermine the conference.

An OAU spokesman told newsmen that consultations were still going on today and that the meeting would start as soon as they were completed.

He said OAU chairman and Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam was meeting all the faction leaders present in turn, following his meetings yesterday with ousted Chadian leader Goukouni Oueddei and the representative of the Ndjamena government, Interior Minister Tahar Guinassou.

This would mean that Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu would hold talks with the eight leaders of the factions making up Mr Goukouni's Transitional Government of National Union [GUNT], assuming that Habre supporters considered themselves as one team.

The precise nature of the procedural difficulties is still unclear but it was believed to revolve around the reluctance of the Goukouni alliance to negotiate with a lower-level Ndjamena delegation in the absence of Mr Habre himself.

Mr Habre refused to attend, alleging that the welcome given to Mr Goukouni by the Ethiopian authorities was equivalent to that for a head of state.

In any case, the OAU hinted yesterday that the Addis Ababa roundtable was not likely to be the conference to end all conferences on Chad and that another would probabaly have to be arranged at a later date.

Observers here judge that it would be a setback indeed for the OAU if some headway were not made here, especially after so much shuttle diplomacy had been going on beteween Addis Ababa, Paris Tripoli and Ndjamena to get all the opposing Chadian factions to go to the negotiating table.

Visits late last year by Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde and OAU Interim Secretary-General Peter Onu to Paris and Tripoli apparently sought the two countries to bring their influences to bear on their respective proteges.

France, which backs the Ndjamena government, has about 2,500 troops there while Libya supports the forces of Mr Goukouni, which fought back to control the northern half of Chad following Mr Goukouni's ousting from Ndjamena by Mr Habre in June 1982.

Habre Blames Haile Mariam for Conference Delay

AB101115 Paris AFP in English 1058 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Ndjamena, Jan 10 (AFP) — The Chadian Government of President Hissein Habre last night heaped abuse on Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam for hindering the organization of African Unity's (OAU) conference in Addis Ababa called to end the civil war in Chad.

The Chadian Information Ministry here issued a statement saying that Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu disgraced himself Sunday by according unequal greetings to the government and rebel delegations on their arrivals in Addis Ababa on Sunday.

Colonel Mengistu personally welcomed Goukouni Oueddi, the head of the Libyan-backed Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT), and sent his Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde to meet the Ndjamena delegation led by Interior Minister Tahar Guinassou.

The "rebel" GUNT delegation was "received with honors due to the visiting head of state," the statement said.

This "staging does not honor the host country" of the conference seeking national reconciliation in Chad, shows that "Colonel Mengistu is favoring his ties with Libya" and reveals the off-stage maneuvers of Tripoli at the conference, the statement added.

The GUNT fought back to occupy most of northern Chad after Mr Habre ousted Mr Goukouni from Ndjamena in June 1982.

The information ministry repeated the official Ndjamena hope for the establishment of a durable peace in Chad at the OAU conference.

(OAU sources in Addis Ababa said yesterday that Mr Goukouni's welcome was lower than that accorded a head of state. Mr Habre would have been given more honors if he had turned up, they added.)

(Sources close to the Chadian Embassy in Paris today accused Ethiopia of raising "false problems" and "trying to obtain major humiliating concessions" from the Ndjamena government delegation.

(Ethiopia was trying to persuade the delegation to agree to "Libyan" proposals: separation of factions, non-recognition of the government of Hissein Habre and joint chairmanship of the conference by Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu and Mr Goukouni, the sources said.

(It was not the absence of Mr Habre which was causing the present deadlock, since the Ndjamena delegation was composed of high-ranking figures able to talk in the name of the government they added.

(The causes lay in the bad preparation of the conference and attempts to humiliate the Chadian Government, the sources said.

("Instead of working for reconciliation between Chadians, the host country has given the opposition the platform it was lacking, and wants to give it a right to the Chadian flag, thus preventing President Hissein Habre from going to Addis Ababa".)

Habre Seen Erecting 'Obstacles'

AB091116 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] The Ndjamena group is already setting up obstacles on the path to national reconciliation in Chad. In fact the FAN representative in Paris has announced protocol conditions under which the leader of that faction, Hissein Habre, will attend the Addis Ababa conference [passage indistinct].

Barely 48 hours after French Defense Minister Charles Hernu's visit to Ndjamena, the FAN spokesman announced, without any scruples, the faction's opposition to a meeting of all Chadian factions as planned by the OAU. As if all this talk was not enough, the Ndjamena representative in Paris added that the neocolonial Ndjamena government is (?against) the Addis Ababa meeting.

As Comrade Goukouni Oueddei observed, this is an attempt to shift onto the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] responsibility for the possible failure of the meeting in the Ethiopian capital in order to continue its maneuvers.

This strange statement is deliberately meant to create confusion. First of all, is it not surprising to hear the FAN representative in Paris say that the form and substance of the roundtable conference have been decided upon by the GUNT president?

To the best of our knowledge, the pan-African organization first held consultations with the parties concerned. Then in compliance with the declaration of the Standing Committee of the 19th OAU summit, it specified that the meeting will include the 11 Chadian factions and sent them invitations to attend.

(?According to) the FAN spokesman, the success or the failure of the roundtable conference will depend on what he calls the opposition established in Paris and Tripoli [words indistinct]. On what basis can a faction pose as a judge in its own case?

In fact, the spokesman — or the loudspeaker — of the Ndjamena group simply wants all other factions to rally round that faction. In this regard, we must make clear to him that contrary to what he pretends to believe, the GUNT and its member factions do not reside in Tripoli. Their headquarters is in Bardai.

As one can see, in its unbridled attempts to wreck the Addis Ababa roundtable conference, the FAN is resorting to gross and ill-inspired arguments. To strengthen its reluctancy and promote an undeserved image, the Ndjamena group has used the military situation to devise a new scenario.

As a matter of fact, in a communique carried by Radio Ndjamena, the Ndjamena Group announced the signing of a ceasefire agreement in Danamadji, south Chad, between the so-called Ndjamena government and the Red and Green commando units, allegedly putting an end to the trouble in the region.

ALGERIA

President Bendjedid Receives 'Arafat, Others

LD091515 Algiers APS in Arabic 1458 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Algiers, 9 Jan (APS) — At the president's residence this morning President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN party, received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and Commander in Chief of the Palestinian revolution.

Also present were Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, and Abu Jihad.

More on Bendjedid-'Arafat Meeting

LD092053 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algiers this morning. Mr. 'Arafat was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, in the presence of Mr. Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs, and Abu Jihad, [Khalil al-Wazir] member of the Fatah Central Committee. It is clear that the policy of solidarity pursued by Algeria with the Palestinian people for the (?concretization) of its legitimate rights, is based upon two principles above all others: the unity of Palestinian ranks and the independence of Palestinian decision-making. Algeria has always been on the side of the Palestinian people at their most difficult times, including the drama that it has known quite recently.

If the meeting that took place recently between Mr. 'Arafat and President Husni Mubarak has given rise to numerous questions even within the Palestinian ranks, the necessary coordination within the Palestinian revolution and the strengthening of Arab solidarity requires a frank dialogue at every level to dispel these questions.

It is in this context that the meeting took place today between President Chadli Bendjedid and Mr. 'Arafat. It is the same spirit that has always prevailed and which will prevail at all consultations between Algerian and Palestinian leaders to strengthen the unity of the ranks and mobilize all efforts in order for the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights.

In the declaration that he issued to the national press in the (?north) hall of the airport, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee praised Algeria for its revolutionary position and the strong position taken by its president and people, who grasp perfectly the meaning of this crisis and the obstacles strewn in the way of the revolution.

Mr. 'Arafat also saluted the revolutionary solidarity of the Algerian people and their political support for the Palestinian people, as well as their support (?in the recent phase), a phase marked by the emergence of an American-Israeli plot in which certain Arab parties compromised themselves during 1982 and 1983. But, Mr. 'Arafat added, no matter what (?crisis) and plots there are, victory will be ours and in the manner of the Algerian Mujahidin, who are still recognised in the FLN and attached to it, we all say today that we are all united within the PLO.

Iranian Official Visits To Discuss Relations

LD091114 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Algiers, Jan 8 IRNA — The political deputy of the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Hoseyn Sheyk ol-Eslam, visiting Algeria, met and conferred with the foreign affairs minister of Algeria, Ahmed Taleb Brahimi on Sunday.

Sheyk ol-Eslam, heading an Iranian delegation, discussed with the Algerian minister bilateral relations, the upcoming fourth summit of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO), the situation in the Middle East and the Iraqi war imposed against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Iranian official also met with the Algerian prime minister, Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, today and presented to him the message of President 'Ali Khamene'i for his Algerian counterpart Chadli Bendjedid.

Meanwhile Sheykh ol-Eslam held talks with the UAE oil minister, Mani Sa'id al-'Utaybah, currently visiting Algeria, and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Sheykh ol-Eslam and his delegation left Tehran Tuesday, January 3, for Syria, Libya and Algeria.

Official Interviewed, Departs

GF091721 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Algiers, Jan. 9, IRNA — Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam deputy foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran today ended his six day tour of Syria, Libya and Algeria where he held talks with leaders of those countries and handed over messages from President Khamene'i.

Before leaving here for Tehran, Sheykh ol-Eslam said in an interview with IRNA that his tour of the said countries was made on the eve of the Islamic Conference summit to be held in Casablanca. Prospects for the conference were bleak, and held nothing but a compromise on the cause of Muslim masses, he said.

At a time when world imperialism and the reactionary regimes of the region were concocting wide-spread plots, the Islamic Republic of Iran deemed it necessary to defend its own legitimate rights as well as the cause of other world Muslims, he said.

The Islamic Republic of Iran announced its intention of not attending the Casablanca summit, and through letters to the leaders of the progressive Muslim countries informed them of its viewpoints about various issues and reminded that any partial decisions made about the Iraqi imposed war and bringing Egypt back to the Arab political fold, as well as any capitulatory measure on the Palestinian issue would be strongly opposed by Iran, he added.

On his visit to the town of Ba'labakk in Lebanon after the recent brutal bombardment of the town by the Zionist forces, he said that the visit was arranged at the request of some Lebanese people.

Sheykh ol-Eslam said such acts were committed by the Zionist regime in retaliation for the courageous operations carried out by the Muslims in south Lebanon, and those inside occupied Palestine.

It should be noted, he added, that the Lebanese people became stronger day by day while the Zionist regime and the U.S. become more aware of their weakness. He said the Zionist regime attacks the residential areas of Lebanon because it considers the innocent and deprived inhabitants as its enemies.

LIBYA

U.S. Said Financing Anti-Jamahiriyah Campaign

LD091124 Tripoli JANA in English 0918 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 5, January 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Preparations are currently underway in Italy for an intensive propaganda campaign against the Jamahiriyah to be financed by the head of the U.S. Administration himself with the aim of stepping up psychological pressure on the Libyan Arab people by levying false accusations and using fabricated allegations against them.

American central intelligence services are preparing to launch this blatant campaign which is in harmony with U.S. terrorist policies against Libya, firmly opposed to America's hegemony and endeavouring to bravely confront and thwart all American conspiracies.

According to reliable facts from the Italian capital of Rome,it was learned that American businessman Lindon Larussin [name as received], who belongs to the American Republican Party's extreme right wing, has visited Italy to finance this campaign according to instructions issued by Reagan so as to fuel the campaign of hostility against Libya. The same facts also indicate that the U.S. Administration, in accordance with its anti-Libyan policy, is working towards undermining the existing relations between Italy and the Jamahiriyah. This has been primarily stressed in the allegation campaign to be launched from Italy as the Reagan administration is trying to attribute the terrorist activities perpetrated by the Mafia and the Camora gangs to Libya, activities which Libya continuously and openly condemned.

Thus, Reagan's administration steps up its aggressive confrontation against Libya, this time by choosing the Italian scene to spread more fabrications and poison hoping to gain from the stands of the Libyan Arab people and break the link between its stands of principle and struggle on various levels. It is worth drawing attention here to the fact that the Reagan administration has once more proven that it is against the peoples who are displeased with Washington's path and who want to work independently towards adopting their legitimate choice for progress.

Palestinians Denounce 'Arafat Visit to Egypt

LD091115 Tripoli JANA in English 0855 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Al Kufra, Rabi Thani 5, January 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The masses of the Palestinian popular congress held here on Saturday night an emergency meeting to discuss Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Egyptian regime.

The masses then issued a statement in which they denounced this conspiratorial meeting held between 'Arafat and Mubarak which is aimed at drawing the Palestinian people into the Camp David agreements of treason. They also hailed the brave stands of the Libyan Arab people in backing the uprising within Fatah and exposing 'Arafat's game.

The Palestinian masses also declared victory for the revolutionary uprising within Fatah under the banner of fighting until the liquidation of 'Arafat's clique and the purging of the liberation organisation from all those who play with the destiny of the Palestinian people and their sacred cause, stressing that the Palestinian cause is not the property of 'Arafat or his clique,but is that of the Palestinian people and the free Arab people who are in one trench together against imperialism, Zionism and reactionaryism.

Maltese Deputy Prime Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD101022 Tripoli JANA in English 0910 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Thani 6 Jan. 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The deputy prime minister of Malta, Mr. Karsillo M. Younisie [JANA spelling] and his accompanying delegation, which consisted of Mr. Karsillo Filla [JANA spelling], minister of industries, and General Kabella [JANA spelling], commander of Maltese special forces, last night arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

In an announcement to a JANA correspondent, Mr. Karsillo expressed his pleasure about his visit to the Jamahiriyah. He said: "This visit came within the framework of Mr. Dom Mintoff's visit to the Jamahiriyah last week, and efforts to support and strengthen cooperation between the two friendly countries."

SUDAN

SSU Official Meets With Soviet Ambassador

JN100713 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Jan (SUNA) — Yusuf Muhammad Bisharah, member of the Executive Bureau of the SSU Central Command and secretary of the National Council for Solidarity, Friendship, and Peace, has extended the appreciation of the council and the Sudanese-Soviet Friendship Society to the Soviet-Sudanese Friendship Society, which held a large celebration in Moscow on Sudan's Independence Day. The Sudanese ambassador to the Soviet-Sudanese Friendship Society, and other prominent figures attended the celebrations.

This occured today when Yusuf Bisharah's received the Soviet

ambassador in Khartoum as well as the cultural attache in the embassy. Dr Bisharah and the Soviet ambassador discussed bilateral relations and the means to promote them. They also discussed the scholarships that the Soviet-Sudanese Friendship Society is granting to its Sudanese counterpart, and the possibility of increasing these scholarships in international specialties that Sudan needs in light of its current development. Dr Bisharah reiterated his invitation to the Soviet-Sudanese Friendship Society to visit Sudan later this year to acquaint itself with the accomplishments of the May Revolution and the Sudanese people in various fields. The Soviet ambassador thanked Dr Bisharah for this invitation, asserting that this visit will take place soon by a high-level delegation of the society.

During the celebrations held in Moscow on the 28th anniversary of Sudan's independence, the chairman of the Soviet-Sudanese Friendship Society praised Sudan's struggle to achieve independence and its efforts to build the state of modern Sudan. The Sudanese ambassador to the Soviet Union also spoke during the celebrations about the accomplishments of the May Revolution and the Sudanese people in various fields.

TUNISIA

Explosion Destroys Pipeline Link With Algeria

Libyan Commando Group Blamed

NC091420 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, Jan 9 (AFP) — An armed commando from Libya has blown up the pipeline linking Algeria's Ain-Amenas oilfield with the Tunisian oil port of As-Sukhayrah, the Defence Ministry announced here today.

The incident occurred overnight Sunday, the ministry said, at a point 2 km (about 1 1/4 miles) from the Tunisian-Libyan frontier near the village of Hanshir al-Bassasah in the extreme south of Tunisia.

The Foreign Ministry sent a memorandum to the Libyan authorities, the announcement said.

The Defence Ministry announcement said a four-man commando group entered Tunisia in a Land-Rover at 1 a.m. local time, Sunday. The commandos placed a crate of explosives beside the pipeline and the crate exploded over a 4-metre (yard) distance, starting a fire. The fire was extinguished yesterday afternoon after the Algerians had been contacted and had stopped the oil flow.

Observers recalled that in January 1980 a commando group of Tunisian oppositionists passed through Libya and occupied the mining centre of Qafsah, in central Tunisia.

Qafsah was one of the towns most affected by the recent Tunisian bread riots.

There has been unconfirmed speculation that some responsibility for the riots lies with pro-Libyan circles here. The riots began in the south of the country and spread to the neighboring towns of Al-Qasrayn and Qafsah, the hometowns of most of the 60,000 Tunisians working in Libya.

Defense Ministry Issues Statement

LD091704 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The Ministry of National Defense has issued the following statement:

During the night of 7 and 8 January, at about 0100, a Tunisian military unit carrying out security checks discovered a fire at a point in the oil pipeline which joins the oil field in (Ain Amina), Algeria, and Skhira port in the Gulf of Gabes, at a location called Hanshir al-Bassasah, Qulayb al-Anz, which lies about 2 kilometers from the Libyan border.

It became clear from the investigation carried out on the spot that the fire came from an explosion caused by an act of sabotage deliberately carried out in the following way:

A Land-Rover-type vehicle arrived from Libyan territory and penetrated Tunisian territory up to a distance estimated at 800 meters from the pipeline. Four persons alighted from the vehicle carrying a box. After reconnoitering for a distance of 400 meters along the length of the pipeline, they placed charges which exploded, tore off 4 meters of the pipeline, and set fire to a quantity of leaking oil.

It is noted from the observations that the four persons were wearing spadrier shoes [trainer-type shoes] and were armed. Moreover, the clear tracks on the sand show that they returned on foot to the vehicle parked on Tunisian territory 800 meters away,and returned to Libyan territory.

Parts of the wrecked pipeline were found 6 meters and 150 meters from the point of the explsion, which was the point of the pipeline closest to the Libyan-Tunisian border.

Immediate measures were taken to stop the fire from spreading. It was finally put out on the afternoon of 8 January. The Algerian authorities were also contacted to take the necessary technical measures to stop the pumping from (Ain Amina). An intensive search is being carried out.

The Tunisian Foreign Ministry has handed a memorandum about this matter to the Libyan authorities.

Oil Transport Suspended

LD091957 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The Algerian Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries today announced the suspension of oil transport from the (Ain Amina) oilfield to the Tunisian port of Sukayrah.

The suspension of the supply follows a break in the (?oil pipeline) on Tunisian territory near a place called Hanshir al-Bassasah, 2 kilometers from the Tunisian-Libyan border.

Mzali Comments on Bread Price Reversal

Interviewed by LE FIGARO

PM091646 Paris LE FIGARO in French 7-8 Jan 84 p 2

[Interview with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali by Francois Hauter in Tunis, on 6 December]

[Text] Some 2 hours after President Bourguiba had announced to the Tunisian people the cancelation of the food price increases, Prime Minister Mzali received *LE FIGARO*'s special envoy.

Pausing from time to time to listen to the din rising from the streets — and to try to make out what the crowd was chanting — he told us: "I did not think that the bread price increase would prompt a reaction from the people. I thought that the majority of Tunisians would understand it. We had planned aid for the old, orphans, poor people... That was not enough: Bread still had a magic value. We have become aware of that over the past 3 days. I had therefore been expecting this decision for the past 3 days. But it was impossible to bow to pressure from the streets. So, once order was established, President Bourguiba purely and simply canceled the increase.

"We are to put proposals to him within 3 months: to invest less or find new fiscal resources to finance this decision."

Does Mr Mzali regard this decision as a disavowal of his policy? "I have no policy," he replied. "Ours is a presidential regime. I implement the president's choices. That increase was too much. It ought perhaps to have been implemented in two or three stages... it only goes to show that it is difficult to really solve economic problems in a Third World country."

When we asked the prime minister whether this decision by the government to back down was not a dangerous precedent, he replied: "No, President Bourguiba has enough influence and presence. The worst thing for a leader is obstinacy. I was perhaps too rational. But this is not a disavowal of me... and even if it is, I accept it. The essential thing is to save the country." He added that the "bread shock" was "revealing," because in addition to the people's revolt, "tiny groups attacked the regime."

According to Mr Mzali, the toll taken by the riots is "around 70 people killed, including members of the forces of order and young people," and "between 800 and 900 arrests, including several hundred for looting."

Finally, "the curfew will gradually be lifted," he told us.

Interviewed by LE MONDE

PM091439 Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Jan 84 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali by Paul Balta and Michel Deure, in Tunis on 5 January]

[Excerpts] Tunis — Receiving us Thursday evening at his home in La Soukra, amid the orchards of Tunis' northern suburb, Prime Minister Mzali told us: "As long as Bourguiba is there, the Tunisian people fear nothing and all attempts at destabilization are doomed to failure... It is because democracy is in danger that we must strengthen it by playing the democratic game."

In the living room, the walls of which are covered in books, pictures by Tunisian artists, and family photographs, the prime minister, visibly tired by sleepless nights, was determined.

"The events which the country has just experienced have not shaken my conviction that it is right to democratize political life. It is fear which gives rise to dictatorship. Democracy needs order and the people need security. When Tunisians leave work in the evening they want to be sure of returning the next day. When they return home they want to find their homes and families. Responsible oppositionists should help us."

Mr Mzali pointed to the coordination among young people's movements and the scale on which the "poison" spread. In his view, that is new proof that the events the country is experiencing are part of a destabilization plan. He refrains from making any specific accusations, pending the end of the investigations. So is it the work of extremists? The prime minister admitted that the slogans heard in the past few days are "disturbing," but he would not say any more than that.

What about the alibi? [as published — "l'alibi" probably should read "la libye," or Libya]. Probably out of anxiety to maintain at least a facade of good-neighborly relations, he said nothing when we pointed out to him that some demonstrators arrested in the south admitted that they had been trained in Libyan camps. He did not deny it and merely replied that the courts will give their verdict.

Mr Mzali also admitted that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi telephoned him at the beginning of the week to offer his help, and that he received a delegation on Wednesday which had come to tell him that Libya had nothing to do with the events. And he added very quickly, with obvious satisfaction: "Algerian Prime Minister Abdelghani telephoned me twice to tell me forcefully and sincerely: 'We are with you. We are watching the borders. We want Tunisia's stability.'"

The prime minister thinks it is obvious that the demonstrators were manipulated throughout the country. "We were faced with veritable insurrectional commando groups, which were well organized and coordinated."

Mr Mzali disagreed with the two main criticisms leveled at his government in various sections of opinion: the inadequacy of the police presence during the Tunis riots, and the central and regional government's failure to foresee the reactions which the cereal products price hike was likely to set off.

"There were more than 1,000 police in the capital, where we certainly expected some disturbances but not outright commando operations," the prime minister explained. "Moreover, do not forget that, rightly or wrongly, our police are not trained for repression, whatever some people might say. In those conditions, how can a city of 2 million inhabitants be contained? In most cases where people were killed, the police acted out of self-defense. Moreover, do not forget that many of the casualties had their skulls fractured by stones, and the forces of order do not use

stones. Unfortunately,several children were pushed into the front line of the rioters, according to the technique of martyrdom."

With regard to the structures of the Destourian Socialist Party, which have succeeded in embracing the population for so long, Mr Mzali admitted that there may have been "some shortcomings" and was anxious to recall that "the reign of the militia has been over" for 3 years. He stated that many members worked hard to explain the decision to the masses. He argued his case strongly, stressing that the bread price hike had been announced a long time in advance, that the government had repeatedly stated that the poorest social classes would receive compensation, and that discussions were underway with the trade unions to establish the distribution of that compensation.

He stressed that the saving achieved by doubling the price of cereal products amounts to 140 million dinars. On the other hand, if new taxes had been imposed on cars, liquor, tobacco, gasoline and so forth, all prices would have soared as they did in 1982 and the government would not have gained one-fifth of that sum. In addition, such taxes would have accentuated inflation, which was maintained at 4.5 percent in 1983, as against 14 percent in 1982. Finally, 30 million were set aside from the savings made to help the poorest people.

"It was certainly necessary to take action on bread prices; I did so. You have to have the courage to tell the people the truth. We had that courage. But that was the object of political exploitation."

Foreign Minister Es-Sebsi on Recent Violence
LD091856 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1721 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis, 9 Jan (KUNA) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi, speaking here today, did not rule out "the presence of foreign hands behind the disturbances recently witnessed in Tunisia," while he described rumors of the involvement of some of the personalities of the present regime in inciting disturbances as "purely fictitious."

Caid Es-Sebsi explained in an exclusive interview with KUNA that the Tunisian Government will issue a statement in the next few days about the implications of the disturbances.

The Tunisian foreign minister confirmed the truth of the reports that Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi telephoned Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali and expressed his condemnation of the disturbances that took place in Tunisia.

Replying to a question about the truth of the rumors of the involvement of some of the personalities of the present regime in Tunisia in inciting disturbances in order to force Mohamed Mzali to resign, or to prompt President Habib Bourguiba to dismiss him, Caid es-Sebsi said: "These are pure fabrications. I personally rule this out and I believe that whoever says this cannot be responsible. Hence, I say that these are cheap rumors that do not indicate any high morals."

Caid es-Sebsi admitted the existence of rivalry among the members of the ruling regime in Tunisia. He said: "We live in a democratic system, but this does not mean that all the people who are in a position of responsibility are united in a similar spirit and outlook."

He added: "If the information spread by rumors is true, then it will be very ugly and undesirable in my view." Answering a question on how some members of the security forces turned a blind eye during the first day of the disturbances in Tunis, and the destruction, burning and looting that occurred before their eyes, without doing anything to stop it, the Tunisian foreign minister said: "I was away from the capital on that day as I was with President Bourguiba and Mr. Mzali in Monastir Province and I know nothing about it." Replying to another question about the removal of former interior minister, Driss Guiga, Mr Caid es-Sebsi said: "These things are dictated by state policy and the policy of the head of state. As you know, no man can remain in a position of responsibility forever or until the day of judgement. He added: "I, for example, remained minister of the interior for 14 years, and then left the ministry."

Questioned about the means that the Tunisian Government will use to balance its payments with its imports without cancelling the government subsidy for bread and grain by-products in the next 3 months fixed by President Habib Bourguiba, Es-Sebsi said: "I believe that the government is capable of finding the correct solutions at the proper times."

The IMF made it conditional for the continued extension of financial loans to Tunisia that the Tunisian Government lift its subsidies on bread and grain by-products.

Replying to another question as to whether the Tunisian Government would return to borrowing from the rich Arab states as an alternative to borrowing from the IMF, Caid es-Sebsi said: "I cannot now answer this question because we have not studied the subject, and I wish you would put this question to Mr. Mzali or to the finance minister."

Caid es-Sebsi described his country's relations with countries of the other greater Arab Maghreb as "good relations, because we work for the improvement of relations with our neighbors." However,he qualified it by adding: "But this does not mean that everything is fine, as it does not mean that the relations cannot be improved."

The Tunisian foreign minister criticized what he described as tendentious campaigns and exaggerated reports "spread by non-Arab news agencies about Tunisia during the recent disturbances." He said: "These lies were spread with bad intentions against us because they hate our success as an Arab Islamic state, and they know thatour success is proof of their failure." He added: "Whether they want it or not, Tunisia will remain an Arab Muslim country until judgement day."

Es-Sebsi Interviewed on Algeria, Palestinians

PM091700 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Jan 84 pp 16-19

[Interview with Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi by Mustafa al-'Alawi in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AD-DUSTUR*: The fraternity and amity agreement [between Tunisia and Algeria] did not solve the problem of the Arab Maghreb. In fact, there is an explosive situation, or so it seems to us. Algeria insists on forcing Morocco to negotiate directly with the Polisario. Are negotiations the solution, and what is the situation in the area as you see it?

Es-Sebsi: First, I would like to point out that the fraternity and amity agreement between Tunisia and Algeria was signed on 19 March 1983. This agreement was concluded after the signing of another agreement between the two countries, settling the long-standing border problems between them. The agreement in fact represents a gain in building confidence between the two countries and confirms their resolve to enter the stage of fruitful, serious, and honest cooperation.

Both Algeria and Tunisia uphold the idea of building the great Arab Maghreb. In view of the initiative launched at the historic meeting between His Majesty King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid in February 1983, and the great hopes it has aroused with regard to easing tension in the area, and so that Tunisia's and Algeria's intentions behind concluding the fraternity and amity agreement is not misinterpreted or — as we have heard — described as being an axis or a defense pact that might be directed against another country, a sixth article has been added to it clearly stating that the agreement is open to accession by the rest of the Arab Maghreb countries that accept its provisions. Indeed, immediately after the agreement was signed it was offered to Morocco, Mauritania, and Libya. A special envoy was sent to Mauritania and Libya and I personally went to Morocco and Libya as well. We delivered copies of the agreement to senior officials of those countries and explained to them the purposes for which the agreement was signed. Algeria made the same effort with the heads of the three countries concerned.

Mauritania expressed its desire to join the agreement. And in view of the fact that, like us and like all the countries of the area, it had border problems with Algeria, it entered into negotiations in order to settle these problems. In fact an agreement was signed between Mauritania and Algeria on the same morning the fraternity and amity agreement was signed by Mauritania.

Therefore, Mauritania's accession came as a natural process. This accession has now raised questions by some observers, particularly in the Moroccan press. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has also officially asked to join the agreement. Therefore,it is not an Algerian-Tunisian axis and it remains open to all because we regard the great Arab Maghreb as the aspiration of all its peoples. No country has a preference of privilege over another.

AD-DUSTUR: But what is the effect of these developments on the Sahara problem?

Es-Sebsi: Tunisia's stand is clear. It is committed to the OAU resolutions, which it regards as the best framework for finding a suitable solution.

The resolution issued by the 19th OAU summit appealed to both parties to hold direct dialogue. The response to such an "appeal" is a matter that concerns Moroccan sovereignty and the resolution of the organization concerned.

AD-DUSTUR: But this answer is insufficient.

Es-Sebsi: I said "appealed." Appeal is a clear word.

AD-DUSTUR: Let us move to the eastern part of the Arab Maghreb — that is Tunisia, where new groups of Palestinian fighters have arrived. The evacuation of Palestinians from Tripoli after the evacuation from Beirut confirms the expulsion of the Palestinians from the area. Of course, neither Tunisia nor Yemen are an alternative homeland. What is the solution?

Es-Sebsi: First, the Palestinian resistance and the Palestinian revolution are a blessed and noble revolution which emanate from the depth of the Palestinian people, and whose aim is to regain the usurped land and establish an independent Palestinian state on the land of the forefathers. There is no doubt that the Palestinian revolution is now passing through a crisis, a crisis of internal division and of attempts to contain the independent Palestinian decisionmaking and put it in the hands of non-Palestinians.

But we believe that the Palestinian revolution has been through many crises before and has been able to overcome them like every honorable revolution. Because it is defending a just cause, victory will ultimately come to it.

We accept no alternative to the establishment of a Palestinian state other than on Palestinian territory. This will be achieved sooner or later.

AD-DUSTUR: What is the Arabs' attitude toward Egypt and the question of its return [to the Arab fold], which is made conditional upon its relations with Israel?

Es-Sebsi: With regard to Egypt, I would like to say that Tunisia has no disputes with Egypt. Tunisia's attitude toward Egypt was in accordance with the Baghdad Arab summit which provided for suspending Egypt's membership of the Arab League because of its unilateral signing of a peace agreement with Israel. There is no doubt that the departure of the biggest and most influential Arab state from the Arab fold has disrupted the balance inside this fold and caused serious weakness within it. This has led to the spread of the belief that after the departure of Egypt from the Arab fold, an Arab military reaction to Israel is no longer credible. There is no doubt that the vacuum that Egypt left has not been adequately filled by the other Arab states, which has encouraged Israel to occupy Lebanon and commit all the well-known atrocities without a serious reaction on the part of the Arabs. This explains the weakness of joint Arab reaction which you observe now.

I believe that by signing the Camp David agreements Egypt fell in a carefully laid trap. In other words, after tying Egypt's hands —Egypt being the biggest Arab country demographically and militarily — Israel launched its attack on Lebanon reassured that Arab reaction to it would be negligible. We believe that the only Arab peace plan is the Fes plan. Any alternative plan is out of the question at present.

WESTERN SAHARA

President Abdelaziz Wants Talks With Morocco

PM061634 Algiers El MOUDJAHID in French 29 Dec 83 p 5

[APS dispatch: "Readiness of Polisario and SDAR To Open Direct Negotiations With Morocco"]

[Text] Haouza (SDAR) — Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president and Polisario secretary general, has sent a message to the heads of state of OAU member countries in which he reaffirmed the readiness of the Polisario and the SDAR to open direct negotiations with Morocco according to the conditions and timetable set by the 19th OAU summit.

In his message, Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz first recalled the efforts made by the OAU implementation committee on Western Sahara with a view to achieving the implementation of Resolution 104 of the 19th OAU summit. In this context, he mentioned the OAU mission entrusted to the Ethiopian foreign minister and temporary OAU secretary general — a mission which, he said, "reflects Africa's undisputed will to shoulder its responsibilities for its own problems and to settle a conflict with grave and dangerous consequences by peaceful and political means."

That mission, the Saharan president continued, proposed by the implementation committee's chairman, is aimed at carrying out the mission entrusted to the implementation committee by the 19th summit, namely the urgent need to bring about the start of direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario with a view to creating the conditions and means for holding a free, general, and proper referendum in the Western Sahara. "This is, therefore, the second action by the OAU in less than 2 months," Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz added, "following the last implementation committee meeting on 21 September, the failure of which rests entirely with Morocco which is showing a clear disdain for the OAU charter and its sacred principles," he stressed.

After stressing the determination of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, the current OAU chairman, to work tirelessly to ensure that the peace plan adopted by the 19th summit is fully implemented, the Saharan president also referred to thedecision taken by the United Nations which ratified that plan to end the conflict between the SDAR and Morocco during the 38th General Assembly session.

"That supports the OAU," Mr Abdelaziz stated, "and is an encouragement to the implementation committee to shoulder its responsibilities.

"This UN position," Mr Abdelaziz noted, "above all reflects the international community's conviction that Africa is capable of solving its own problems, and that the path Africa has outlined for finding a just and final solution to the Western Sahara conflict is the right one." "This agreement by the two organizations on the means to solve the Western Sahara conflict," Mr Abdelaziz also said, "essentially confirms and reaffirms an objective and historical fact — namely that a conflict of the dimensions of the one between the SDAR and Morocco can only be solved by means of direct negotiations between the warring sides."

"As OAU member states," Mr Abdelaziz said, "we must all draw the necessary conclusions to take up this challenge, in the knowledge that our organization's survival and credibility depend on its degree of consistency."

In conclusion, the Saharan president noted "that in adopting this peace plan for the Sahara, the African heads of state are motivated by the entirely legitimate desire to safeguard the OAU charter and save it from the threats posed to it by Morocco's policy of inflexibility and shillyshallying, and to do justice to an African people attacked by a neighboring state."

A similar message has also been sent to the countries which are permanent members of the UN Security Council and many other heads of state.

GABON

UK Trade Delegation Arrives on 5-Day Visit

AB061600 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Libreville, Jan 6 (AFP) — British under-secretary of state for trade, Alexander Fletcher, has arrived here for a five-day official visit to "strengthen relations between his country and Gabon," it was announced.

Mr. Fletcher, accompanied by bankers and financiers, plans to meet Gabonese economic and business leaders.

Britain has already made loans totalling nearly 70 million pounds to Gabon for the construction of the Trans-Gabonese Railway. British firms have shown a growing interest in Gabon since the two countries signed in 1982 a mutual investment protection accord.

Trade is currently running in Gabon's favour. In 1982, London imported Gabonese wood and petroleum products worth 27 million pounds. Gabon in turn bought British transport equipment, manufactured goods, beverages and tobacco worth 14.2 million sterling.

RWANDA

President Habyarimana Announces Cabinet Changes

WA101524 [Editorial Report] Paris AFP in French on 9 January at 0720 GMT reports on the changes in the Rwandan cabinet announced Sunday by President Juvenal Habyarimana following the 26 December legislative elections and his own reelection as head of state. Five ministers have left the government: those of agriculture and livestock, natural resources, justice, health, and social affairs and community development. To date only three new ministers have been nominated: Francois Muganzo as the new minister of public health and social affairs; Anastase Ntezirayo as the new minister of agriculture, livestock, and forests; and Jean Marie Vianney Mugemana as the new minister of justice.

ZAIRE

Angola's Da Moura Brings Mobutu Dos Santos Message

AB091130 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1400 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' message to President Mobutu Sese Seko on 7 January]

[Text] Kinshasa, 7 Jan (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko on Saturday received a message from Angolan head of state Jose dos Santos informing him about the development of the situation in Angola, which is a victim of South African attacks, the latest of which is such that the security of the states in the region is seriously threatened.

Reporting on the situation in the field, Angolan Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio da Moura, who delivered the message, stated after the audience granted him by Marshal Mobutu at Camp Tshatshi on Saturday that apart from Cunene Province — which has been occupied for some years now by Pretoria's racist troops — the South African armed invasion, which began in December 1983 with an important air raid and a strong participation of the infantry, has attained four other provinces in the country, including one bordering on Zaire.

The Angolan deputy minister stressed in this connection that the Angolan people very much appreciate the solidarity the Zairian people have always demonstrated to them in similar circumstances and that President Mobutu's recent speech unequivocally condemning the racist South African regime's brutal attacks was well received in his country. This attitude, he explained, is in conformity with the sacrifices made by the Zairian people during Angola's struggle to liberate itself from the Portuguese yoke.

It was because of Zaire's solidarity that President dos Santos decided to inform his Zairian counterpart about the situation prevailing in his country, which is being attacked because of its unconditional support for the cause of the Namibian people's liberation from South Africa's colonial yoke.

Angola, Venancio da Moura pointed out, is not asking for assistance in the form of troops from friendly countries, but for support in the international forums, as well as for actions capable of hindering the continuation of the attacks by South Africa or by its puppets represented by the local armed factions that have lined up behind the racist South African regime with the "Machiavellian" hope of achieving power through illegal means.

The fact that these armed factions have allied themselves with a regime condemned by the international community in order to sow desolation in their own country with the aim of achieving power has disqualified them in the eyes of public opinion, concluded the Angolan deputy minister.

Two Zambian Soldiers Detained for Illegal Entry

AB091344 Paris AFP in French 1222 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Lusaka, 9 Jan (AFP) — Two Zambian soldiers are being detained in Zaire for entering that country while on a patrol along the border between both countries, the Zambian daily newspaper *DAILY MAIL* announced on Monday.

The Zairian immigration authorities are now examining the case of the two Zambian soldiers, who are being detained at the Mokambo border post, the paper specified.

The Zambian Army has been deployed along the border with Zaire since the end of September following a series of incidents during which Zambians have been robbed, kidnapped, and sometimes even killed by bandits believed to be Zairians.

Last October, the Zambian army arrested about 2,000 illegal immigrants on the northern border in an attempt to put a stop to the smuggling of emeralds and other goods.

BENIN

France's Nucci Comments After Meeting With Kerekou

AB092135 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpts] French Cooperation Minister Christian Nucci left Cotonou this morning after a 2-day friendly working visit to Benin. During this visit, which has made cooperation between France and Benin more dynamic, the French minister held talks with the head of state. He gave to the Beninese authorities a Squirrel helicopter, and also inaugurated the Montaigne School. Mr Nucci was seen off at the airport by central authorities of our party. Our television colleague, Mesmer Gohakou Kassi, asked him what prospects have emerged in the field of cooperation between France and Benin during his visit. Here is what the French minister said:

[Begin Nucci recording] I will limit myself to a few sentences from the long but fruitful discussion I had with His Excellency President Mathieu Kerekou. The president said, among other things, that cooperation between France and Benin is at its brightest point. This sentence alone seems to me to be the best summary of the atmosphere that prevailed during our working session. We also discussed a certain number of topics in the political field, and I must say that on this point too, there is agreement in the area of disarmament and on the need for peace in the world for fruitful development. [end recording]

GHANA

Nigerian Military Lauded for Ending Democracy 'Myth'

AB091331 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Apart from charges of corruption and economic mismanagement, another reason given by the new military rulers for staging the coup in Nigeria is that the political system operated there in the past 5 years was not democratic.

Giving reasons for last weekend's coup at a press conference in Lagos on Thursday, the chairman of the ruling Supreme Military Council, Major General Buhari, said the last elections were rigged on a massive scale and that the system was anything but democratic. Coming from the leader of a country which until yesterday was held up to the world by the Western press as the model of democracy in Africa, such a statement is of profound significance.

The coup in Nigeria is an epoch-making event, having blown sky high the myth, the false myth of Nigerian democracy, based as it was on the multiparty system, elections, parliament, government, and opposition, indeed all the paraphernalia of Western-style government.

The operative part of the definition of democracy is the word: based on the will of the majority. It does not say that only the Western system can qualify to be called democratic. All other systems may be democratic so long as they pass the acid test of being based on the will of the majority. The Western system may be what corresponds best with the culture, temperament, and all other traits in the character of the Western masses. Every nation should be free to search for democracy in a form that is best in keeping with the way of life and the aspirations of its people.

The practice of holding up Western-style political systems as the only forms that are democratic is a sterile exercise. The idea of a government party and a party in opposition tends to institutionalize conflicts; no wonder the spate of coups in countries with systems bascd on the Western model.

What is taking place in Africa is part of the continuing search for that form of government that will ensure stability because it upholds the will of the people. And without seeking to recommend any particular form, one may say that it is possible to obtain democracy within a single political movement or association. It should be possible to write the rules of such an association in a way that will ensure full discussion with it so that decisions taken by the majority become binding on all. It is observed that many countries in Africa are now ruled by single parties. This state of affairs came about by accident due to the collapse of the opposition parties because of carpet-crossing or erosion of their support at the polls since nobody wants to be associated with the loser. So that if these single parties do not have internal democracy written into their constitution, the country ends up under a dictatorship, since the party which rules is itself not democratic. It will therefore be better to start off by accepting to run the single-party state, so that the constitution of the party will be written in a way to ensure the full participation of all members.

While we are at it we must mention that the Western attitude to single-party rule in Africa is inconsistent and downright hypocritical. Western powers see nothing wrong with single-party states that are pro-West and which have opened their resources to Western multinationals to exploit and repatriate huge profits. These governments see nothing wrong with such regimes, except, perhaps, to have to make a few feeble noises when their stooges embarrass them by committing excesses as with the former Emperor Bokassa of the CAR. Beyond this, their support for such regimes is solid and unshakeable to the extent that they use their secret services to protect them. And yet when progressive countries like Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Angola want to adopt single-party rule to end internal conflicts and get on with economic development, Western governments and their media shout wolf and say this is dictatorship. Anyway, the coup in Nigeria must silence these false observers because it shows that democracy does not stop at the door of the multiparty system. The search for stability based on democracy goes on.

MALI

Cooperation Agreement With Canada Reported

AB092040 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Excerpts] An agreement was signed Friday between Mali and Canada at the headquarters of the Department of International

Cooperation. The agreement concerns the demarcation of an area for a livestock grazing project at [names indistinct] in the Mopti region. It is worth noting that the Canadian International Development Agency will contribute approximately 29.4 million Malian francs toward the realization of the project in the form of a subsidy. Basiri Toure, the deputy permanent under secretary at the Ministry of International Cooperation, signed for Mali, while Henry Forson, the first secretary to the consul at the Canadian Embassy in Bamako, signed for his country.

NIGERIA

Ex-Army Officer Calls for Execution of Embezzlers

AB100835 Lagos NAN in English 0740 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Benin, Jan 9 (NAN) — An ex-Army officer, Prince Francis Shanu, has called on the Federal Military Government to force all political leaders who embezzled public money to refund such money or face military execution.

Addressing a press conference today in Benin, Prince Shanu said that harsh treatment to them was the only way future politicians would learn to be patriotic with public funds entrusted to them by the masses.

Prince Shanu also suggested that the influx of aliens such as Indians and Lebanese should be checked and that the Ministry of Internal Affairs should be headed by a highly responsible officer. He further said that he would like the Federal Military Government to (?overhaul) the Nigerian police force while all the state commissioners of police during the civilian regime should be retired. Prince Shanu said that this step is necessary because their loyalty to the former civilian administration was unshakable.

He also advocated that some NSO [National Security Organization] state directors should be (?retired), and the military government should not rely on some information from them because some of the NSO officials were still on the payroll of the ex-NPN [National Party of Nigeria] regime.

Buhari Receives Congratulations From Todor Zhivkov

AB051008 Lagos NAN in English 0820 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 4 (NAN) — The president of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov, has sent a congratulatory message to Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, on his assumption of office as the head of the Federal Military Government.

The Bulgarian leader wished Maj Gen Buhari successful fulfilment of his highly responsible duties for the benefit of the friendly people of Nigeria.

He expressed the hope that the existing cooperation between Bulgaria and Nigeria would be strengthened for the prosperity of the peoples of both countries and for peace and progress in the world.

Shagari Family Sees Coup as Divine Intervention

AB091225 Paris AFP in English 1217 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Lagos, Jan 9 (AFP) — The family of Nigeria's deposed President Shehu Shagari has described the New Year's Eve military coup that toppled the former President as "an act of God no one could have changed."

Habibu Shagari, a nephew of the former head of state, told the weekly *DEMOCRAT* newspaper in the family's home state of Sokoto, northern Nigeria, that the fact that his uncle was alive, though detained, was a source of joy for which "we hold no grudge against anyone."

"It was God who gave Shehu power and it was he who took it from him," he said. Mukhtar Shagari, a lawyer son of the ousted President, said it was normal for the military to detain his father since they would naturally want him to explain certain things.

The former President's family expressed delight that the new head of state, Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, denied press reports here that Mr Shagari was flown to Lagos from Abuja in handcuffs.

"We are confident the soldiers will not harm him," Habibu Shagari said, adding that members of the family were being well treated by the army.

Stiff Penalties Advocated for Black Marketeering

AB071300 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 7 Jan 84

[Stephen Etha commentary]

[Text] Smuggling is a vice of great national concern which has stood inconquerable in the age-long fight against it. Some attempts had been made in the past to deal with the problem. It is, however, unfortunate that none of these measures has achieved the desired results. Some people have blamed this failure on officials whose duty it is to enforce stipulated measures. Others heap the blame on the die-hard smugglers themselves and their local patrons. But a more general appraisal of the problem will show that smuggling thrives in this country because of a number of reasons. The first is the insatiable appetite of the average Nigerian for foreign-made goods. That has been a long-standing problem; hence, it has become fashionable to ask whether a given item, for instance, is manufactured in Britain, France, or Italy.

Another issue is the quality of smuggled goods in relation to their prices. Because smugglers do not go through customs formalities, thereby evading the payment of duties, smuggled goods tend to sell at lower prices. Genuine businessmen who comply with the country's import laws find themselves at the losing end. This situation accounts for the increasing tendency for more and more people to take to smuggling. The other factor is the question of dumping. Some overseas manufacturers who cannot stand the stiff competition offered by their rivals in their home countries turn to Nigeria where, in their opinion, there is a large and ready market. They do this through generous credit facilities to some

Nigerian businessmen, many of whom turn out to be big-time smugglers. All these problems notwithstanding, the fight against smuggling must be intensified.

First, Nigerians must curb their propensity for foreign goods. Local industries with proven standards should be patronized. Again, the government should encourage local manufacturers to attain high standards. For instance, there could be some kind of prohibitive import duty for locally available goods. Most importantly, the government must make it clear that smuggling is a clear case of economic sabotage. This being so, it is a serious offense against the state. People found guilty of smuggling should be made to pay stiff penalties.

The twin sister of this offense is the illegal trading in the naira. In recent times, this trade has increased in frightening proportions. What was in vogue before was the local exchange of the naira with foreign currencies at greatly reduced rates. But now, the illegal currency trade has found its way overseas, where reports say that the naira is openly displayed like any other article of trade. On the home front, instead of the police going after those involved in this activity, they ignored their presence while the number of the dealers continued to swell. The area of operation of those illegally trafficking in the naira is common knowledge to all, not to talk of the police. They are found in large numbers in some international hotels in Lagos. They also operate at all the domestic and international wings of Murtala Muhammad Airport. The only problem is that spirited attempts have not been made by the police to smash the currency racket. In fact, a former senior police officer is on record as having told a committee of the now disbanded National Assembly that the former senators stood in the way of the police when they wanted to round up illegal currency dealers.

In the long run, measures to stamp out illegal trading in the naira must go beyond mere police [words indistinct].

One of the reasons why illegal currency dealers are patronized is that basic traveling allowances, BTA, are not easily made available to intending travelers by commercial banks. BTA has been turned into a precious commodity. Consequently, travelers who are driven to the wall have no alternative than to go to the black market to purchase foreign currency. Therefore, the new administration should see to it that BTA is made readily available to genuine travelers.

Law enforcement agents should wake from their slumber and rise to the occasion. They should not stand idly by while people engage in this type of exercise. All the places where both foreign and local currencies are being minted illegally should be identified and smashed. Although the police have recorded some modest success along this line, it is still believed that many more illegal mints are still in operation.

As for the foreign banks, which are making a windfall out of the naira, the new administration should drive it very forcefully to them the harm they are doing to our economy. The government should also evolve more water-tight measures that will ensure that the naira does not easily find its way out of the country. Finally, all the lapses that led to the failure of previous measures in respect of both smuggling and illegal trading in the naira should be carefully identified with the view to plugging the necessary loopholes.

Buhari Swears In Anambra, Rivers Governors

AB091655 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The remaining two military governors were today sworn in by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. The governors are Commander Alexon Mabueke for Anambra State, who was military attache at the Nigerian Embassy in the United States at the time of his appointment, and Police Commissioner Fidelus Oyasu Lome for Rivers State, who was named to replace the appointee.

Speaking at the ceremony, Gen Buhari said an alternative had to be found for the officer originally named as military governor of Rivers State because there were allegations against the first appointee. The head of state explained that although nothing could actually be proved against the wife of the first appointee, there was credibility in the claims against her. This, Gen Buhari stated, was in pursuance of the present administration's concept that anyone to be appointed to public office as well as members of his family must be aboveboard.

Roundup of Former State Officials Continues

Okun Ex-Governor in Custody

AB091044 Lagos NAN in English 0951 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Kano, Jan 9 (NAN) — Kano State ex-Governor Mohammad Abubakar Rimi was flown to Kano yesterday from Yola under heavy military escort.

[Words indistinct] Governor was immediately whisked away to the Government House to join former Governor Bakin Zuwo and other former top politicians in protective custody.

Alhaji Abubakar Rimi was in Jalingo to condole former Governor Abubakar Barde who lost his son in an accident, when the change in government took place on December 31.

'Chat' With Bendel Ex-Governor

AB091855 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The former governor of Bendel State, Dr Samuel Ogbemudia, was today brought to Dodan barracks, Lagos, under heavy security. He was driven in an official Bendel State government vehicle. A Radio Nigeria correspondent on the scene said the former governor was brought in for a chat with the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Idiagbon, on what was described as very important issues.

Yola Police See 260

AB081415 Lagos NAN in English 1405 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Yola, Jan 8 (NAN) — Two hundred and sixty former political appointees had reported to the police headquarters in Yola by Friday, when the deadline given to them expired, an asssistant [words indistinct] in Gongola, Mr Antho (?told the) NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) yesterday.

He said that those who reported included ex-governors, legislators and other members of the civilian administration since October 1979.

Mr Oyakhire said that the police were awaiting further instructions from the military government on what to do with the politicians. A number of friends and relatives have visited the political appointees, who are currently under police guard in Yola.

Imo Commissioners 'Taken Away'

AB081215 Lagos NAN in English 1058 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] Owerri, Jan 8 (NAN) — All former state commissioners who served from October to December 1983 were yesterday taken away in a police van to an unknown destination. Also taken away were the former secretary to the Imo government, Prof. Enoch Anyanwu and board members of some state parastatals, including former chairman of the Imo Broadcasting Service, Chief H.B.C. Ogboko.

Meanwhile, police in Owerri have restricted the movement of all former state and federal legislators of Imo State origin from travelling beyond the state.

Addressing the former legislators in Owerri yesterday, an assistant police commissioner in the state, R.F. Gambo, advised them to submit their passports for documentation, adding that anyone who failed to keep to the directives would be severely punished.

A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) who visited the police headquarters said that about one hundred and eighty former political office holder in the state and federal legislators have so far reported themselves to the police in compliance with the federal government directives. They included the former state governor, Chief Sam Mbakwe, his deputy, Prince Isaac Uzoigwe and Chief Collins Obih.

Those that have not reported include the former presidential adviser on National Assembly matters, Chief S.G. Ikoku, and a member (?of the) Federal House of Representatives, Chief Ralph Obioha (?Iyke John Elegonye).

Kaduna Governor To Issue New Price Controls

AB091200 Lagos NAN in English 1113 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Kaduna, Jan. 9 (NAN) — The military governor of Kaduna, Air Commodore Usman Mu'azu, said in Kaduna at the week-end that the government would soon come out with an approved price list of essential commodities.

In a statement, the governor expressed concern over the high prices of goods and warned traders to sell at reasonable prices.

In another development, Governor Mu'azu gave members of the defunct State House of Assembly who have not repaid their car loans and salary advances as well as those who have not accounted for touring allowances granted them up to Jan. 14 to do so. He said that any former legislator who failed to meet the deadline would have himself to blame.

The governor also directed the former legislators who have not handed over the keys of their official residences to do so in their own interest.

Ogun Governor Warns Against Tribalism, Ethnic Rivalry

AB091352 Lagos NAN in English 1255 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Abeokuta, Jan 9 (NAN) — The military governor of Ogun Col. Oladipo Diya said today in Abeokuta that his administration would not allow tribalism and ethnic chauvinism to distract result-oriented government in the state.

Addressing the permanent secretaries and heads of government establishments in Ogun, Col. Diya said that he was aware that a lot of emergency was being dissipated by top public officers on mundane issues. [sentence as received] "What I require from you, therefore, is not a claim of where you come from or your ethnic or group connections but your ability demonstrated in the way and manner you carry out your duties." He said that any official who had been appointed on political consideration should be sacked while those who had been assigned punitive duties for political or other reasons would be reinstated forthwith.

The governor gave the assurance that within the next 48 hours, government ministries and departments will be restructured while permanent secretaries and general managers would be redeployed. Col. Diya said that he could not guarantee the appointment of "all of you as permanent secretaries in charge of ministries or departments", but those not appointed would be re-assigned.

He said that a solicitor general and permanent secretary would now head the Ministry of Justice.

On local government, Col. Diya said that local government secretaries would assume new roles for effective coordination and monitoring of the 10 local governments in the state.

On the former legislature, he said that civil servants who were validly appointed by the Civil Service Commission would be reabsorbed into the public service while facilities in the House will henceforth be used for (?services) and conferences on the payment of prescribed fee.

The governor said that all commercial-oriented corporations and boards would be given specific targets or achievements. Col. Diya urged the public servants to be dedicated, hard-working and efficient.

UPPER VOLTA

President Meets With Iranian MFA Official

LD091119 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan 8, IRNA — Director general of the Foreign Ministry's Department of African and Arab Nations, Hoseyn Lavassani, met and held talks with the interior minister of Upper Volta in Ouagadougou Saturday. He also presented to him a letter from Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati.

In another meeting with the president of Upper Volta, Mr. Sankara, the visiting Iranian official outlined Iran's stand towards the Iraqi war imposed upon the Islamic Republic.

The president of Upper Volta said in his talks with Mr. Lavassani that Iran's struggle against the United States and international Zionism is identical with the struggle of the people in Upper Volta and that it is a responsibility on the shoulder of each and every rising nation to uphold the Islamic Revolution in Iran. He said the improvement in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Upper Volta would serve to strengthen the revolution in his country. Later in his meeting with members of the Provisional Peoples' Salvation Council of Upper Volta, Mr. Lavassani discussed topics on the Iraq-Iran war and on the plight of Lebanese Muslims.

Economic, Technical Agreement Signed With DPRK

AB092115 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Comrade Talata Eugene Dondasse and His Excellency (Kim Yon-yung), the DPRK ambassador to Upper Volta, today signed an economic and technical protocol agreement between the DPRK Government and the revolutionary government of the Republic of Upper Volta. The said protocol is within the framework of the implementation of the general agreement on economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and the Republic of Upper Volta which was signed on the occasion of the visit of Comrade Thomas Sankara — then prime minister — to Pyongyong. This agreement is for the construction of two people's theater halls in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso with a capacity of 1,500 seats each and the building of a monument, a national museum, and a pilot farm of 4 to 5 hectares in (Loumvilla). The fatherland or death! We shall triumph!

Ex-President Lamizana 'Deeply Moved' by Acquittal

AB060943 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] After his acquittal General Lamizana said he was moved by the verdict because, according to him, he was so frightened that he never expected to be acquitted. He spoke to our reporting team after the verdict was given.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Now that the verdict has been given by the Revolutionary Tribunal, General, the radio and television service seizes the occasion to ask you your first impressions, because you have just been acquitted.

[Lamizana] I will simply say that I am deeply moved, and it is very difficult to express this joy in all its depths.

[Reporter] Many accusations were brought against you, especially in the management of public funds. The tribunal acknowledged that you were not responsible for the waste, but the fact remains that there was a lot of waste, wasn't there?

[Lamizana] I told the tribunal why I took charge of the management of funds, because this involved special funds and not ordinary funds for state expenditures. I told them that since my youth, as a young soldier, I learned how to respect state property, from equipment to public funds. And this has been my conviction up to this day. As you know, special funds are put at the exclusive disposal of the head of state, and all heads of state, Africans or non-Africans, play their politics with it. When I use the word politics, I do not mean it is used to finance electioneering campaigns no, that is not it. It is to carry out the politics that fall in line with the general interest; that means internal and external security of the state. On the social level, as you are aware, and I told the tribunal this, our country faces a difficult situation. We did not wish for that, but we are proud of this country and proud of its sons. Therefore, whatever the circumstances, the aim of any head of state is to intervene and lessen the problems facing the people of this country. The present government places emphasis on management in perhaps a different manner. This is excellent. We did it. We practiced strict financial control from 1976, and it is for this reason that Upper Volta has never known bankruptcy. The present government is fully justified in controlling the management of funds. It has been the prime mission of all Upper Voltan governments to strictly control management.

On the special funds, I told them I did not use the funds for my personal use. The proof is that everyone in Ouagadougou or elsewhere knows my financial position which is not excellent; in fact it is not even good. But every member of my family has learned to eat what the people eat. We eat tuo and rice without any other accompaniment. This is what all my children eat. They have learned to eat that and they eat everything anywhere they go, just as I have learned to do in my life as a soldier and as an ordinary citizen.

[Reporter] What do you have to say about the revolutionary tribunals?

[Lamizana] I must say that I was very impressed by this popular verdict.

[Reporter] Which means you did not expect it?

[Lamizana] I have to be frank and honest: I never expected it because they had frightened me so much. I believe the tribunal listened to me and took into consideration what I said. This especially is what impressed me. Also I was pleased with those who intervened in my favor, those who really knew me and I am ever grateful to them. I also thank the tribunal for having understood and considered what I said. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Da Moura Returns From Central African Tour

MB100738 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Venancio da Moura, deputy minister of foreign affairs, returned to Luanda yesterday at the end of a tour which took him to Zambia, Zaire, and the Congo to deliver messages from Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to the respective heads of state.

According to an authorized source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, disclosed in his message the existence of permanent war in the southern part of our country which has been carried out by the regular army of racist South Africa.

Earlier in Luanda, Venancio da Moura gave the ambassadors of the Frontline States accredited in Angola similar messages to their respective heads of state.

'Anti-Angolan Groups' in Portugal Assailed

MB091517 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Franca van Dunem, the Angolan ambassador to Portugal, has presented facts which reveal the Portuguese Government's involvement in activities by the counterrevolutionary gangs acting against Angola from Portugal.

The Angolan diplomat told *DIARIO DE LISBOA* that the activities of elements hostile to the Angolan Government have never been so passively accepted by the Portuguese authorities as they are now. Franca van Dunem admitted that the relations between Portugal and Angola were tense.

On the presence of anti-Angolan groups in Portugal, he expressed his belief that that country did not appear to really know what was going on. Our country's ambassador to Portugal disclosed that he had duly informed the competent authorities — although without any results — of the location of organizations which are carrying out subversive activities against the Angolan Government. He also said that the Portuguese authorities had given residence permits to these elements, and gave as an example the well-known cases of Daniel Chipenda and Wilson dos Santos.

Although the diplomatic representative spoke mainly of cases which had occurred during the previous government, he recalled that he had also recently informed the Portuguese Foreign Ministry about a press conference publicly announced by anti-Angolan elements. Although the government had said that it would not allow it, the conference took place in the street near a hotel and was attended by a number of newsmen. Franca van Dunem explained that Jaime Gama, the Portuguese foreign minister, then argued that for it to be a press conference it needed a flag, a microphone and a hall, and hence, he did not consider it to have been one.

However, the Angolan diplomat underlined the stance assumed by General Ramalho Eanes, the Portuguese president, whom he described as a positive element for relations between Angola and Portugal.

MPLA's De Almeida Addresses Foreign Newsmen

MB100857 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 8 Jan 84

[Text] A social function was sponsored by the (Anibal de Melo) press center at the Panorama Hotel in Luanda last night to bring together officials of the MPLA-Labor Party, newsmen from the national media, and foreign press correspondents accredited to our country.

This New Year's meeting was aimed at strengthening our relations with foreign press correspondents through an exchange of opinions and ideas. In this meeting, the secretary of the party Central Committee for ideology, Comrade Roberto de Almeida, delivered a message on the tasks and role of information within the process of struggle. He referred briefly to the fighting taking place in the south of the country where FAPLA forces are heroically thwarting South African racist aggression.

[Begin De Almeida recording] We are conscious that by defending the territorial integrity of Angola, we are not only defending the territorial integrity of all of Africa, but are also reaffirming the right to liberation of all peoples of our continent. We are also directly and daily asserting the right to peace and freedom of all peoples in the world.

We are proud that in this struggle we can count on the support of so many peoples in the world, on the support of so many parties and so many progressive world organizations which, through messages and other gestures of solidarity, have been expressing their total support for the struggle being fought by the MPLA-Labor Party and the Angolan people.

We name 1984 as the year of defense and production because we are aware that defense and the achievement of peace and tranquillity for all our people are indispensable to enable us to fully devote ourselves to the production tasks. We are also aware that all the effort made in the field of production will have an effect, a repercussion, in the defense effort we are now making to maintain and ensure the territorial integrity of our country. [end recording]

After the address by the secretary of the party Central Committee for ideology at yesterday's social gathering with foreign press correspondents, the SWAPO representative reiterated that contrary to what part of the Western press reported, the racist South African army of occupation is engaged in a battle against FAPLA and not against SWAPO guerrillas. [words indistinct] murderous wrath of Pretoria. He concluded that the reason for all this was because Angola represented [words indistinct] South Africa is trying to do in its country and in the region.

UNITA Leader Savimbi Delivers End-of-Year Address

MB091639 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 1730 GMT 7 Jan 84

[End-of-year message to the Angolan people by Jonas Savimbi, UNITA president — date and place not given; recorded]

[Text] Compatriots and comrades in arms: We have now reached the end of 1983, which was the year of the anti-Cuban campaign. The new year 1984 is the year of the anti-Cuban patriotic front. Why is 1984 going to be the year of the anti-Cuban patriotic front? Because in 1983 UNITA reached its fighting strength by gathering all the Angolan patriotic forces around only one ideal — the ideal of expelling by force the Cubans and all the foreign forces who are occupying our country. It is only UNITA which has a political base, which is the people's support. It is UNITA which has a material base, which is its strength. Only UNITA has an administrative base founded on a free territory. Only UNITA has the commanding image in the international arena needed to unite all those who are ready to fight the Cubans on the ground for the liberation of the fatherland. Nobody — either inside or outside Angola — deserves the right to unite the Angolans at this hour of the salvation of the fatherland.

This appeal of unity in the struggle against the Cubans — against the foreigners who oppress our people and occupy our country — is directed at the same and patriotic consciences. Those consciences have been established on the path of the great Angolan tradition of tenaciously opposing foreign aggression and foreign occupation, as has been the case of (Jinga), (Ekwikwi), (Mutuyakavela), (Mwachiyavwa) and (Mandume). Let us hope that there are those in other political organizations and within the MPLA itself who will be able to positively respond to our appeal to join us so that we may win together. UNITA has created an image with its own force and energy and its own capabilities, and now it can apply those resources toward the liberation of the fatherland.

In reviewing 1983, we can briefly say that it was a year of great victories. During the 7 years of resistance against Russian and Cuban occupation, never before has UNITA attained a position such as that which it attained in 1983. This achievement was attained in all fields — in the political, military, and diplomatic fields. In the political field, UNITA was able to overcome ethnic barriers. It was able to overcome the so-called traditional areas of occupation of this or that Angolan movement. UNITA was able to overcome tribal concepts, and today UNITA is implanted in almost all the provinces.

UNITA, which is enjoying the people's support, is implementing the plan for the spread of the armed resistance throughout the national territory. Against the MPLA propaganda, which attempted to limit UNITA's activity to tribal areas and in the so-called areas of traditional support, the Angolan people witnessed the appearance of their sons in small groups first and later in large compact forces everywhere. Accordingly, we pay tribute and express our gratitude to the populations of Cuanza Norte, Lunda, Malanje, and Luanda Provinces who, having understood for themselves the evils of the Cubans, openly welcomed UNITA messengers who not only had faith in the victory of the Angolan people, but also presented a new program for governing Angola with the participation of the people and without the interference of foreigners.

UNITA's contacts with independent African countries also increased. These African countries accept the fact that it is the Cubans who are the obstacle to any attempt to eliminate tension and conflicts in southern Africa. African countries understand that the Cubans must leave Angola so that the Angolan people can find a lasting solution to the civil war through a negotiated settlement and that only after the departure of the Cubans will it be possible to settle the Namibian independence issue. Nigeria's proposal, which was supported by various African countries, including the Frontline States, to enable the Cubans to leave Angola illustrates this African opinion. If the MPLA's problem was security against South African attacks, these African countries, including Nigeria, were ready to supply security forces. The MPLA's refusal to accept this proposal clearly demonstrated two things. First, it showed that the MPLA does not want to defend itself against South Africa, but against UNITA, a nationalist and Angolan force which is found throughout the country. Secondly, it showed that the MPLA has completely sold out to Russia and the Cubans. Let us analyze this. After 7 years the Cubans have been unable to destroy UNITA, but they continue to enjoy the highest standard of living in towns, with special shops which only serve foreigners. The Cubans have been unable put back into operation even half the factories which the Portuguese left behind in Angola, and they continue to slaughter and massacre our people.

The Soviet Union is only able to give the MPLA arms, ammunition, and bombs with which to kill. This is not only happening in the particular case of Angola. This is part of the general plan of Soviet assistance to developing or Third World countries. The Soviet Union gives practically no economic aid whatsoever. It prefers to only sell outdated weapons to developing countries. It sells outdated tanks. It sells weapons which are no longer useful to the Warsaw Pact countries. However, by selling such weapons to Angola, the Cubans in Angola are able to grab the hard foreign currency earned from the sale of oil. It is in this manner that the Russian loans for the sale of outdated and useless arms are being repaid. If it were not so, why is the MPLA going round to Western countries, namely Portugal, France, and Britain, to look for other weapons? If the Russian weapons had been the right ones for UNITA, it would not be doing this today.

The MPLA is deliberately obstructing the independence of Namibia. Within UNITA we think that Namibia has a right to its national independence, but we also know that Namibia will not attain this status without the departure of the Cubans from Angola. UN resolutions such as Resolution 435 always lack the force needed for their implementation. The United Nations does not have the force needed to implement its resolutions. Thus, those MPLA individuals who think that with Namibia's independence they can create a battle front to UNITA's rear should be made to understand that Namibia's independence will only be possible after the departure of the Cubans from Angola, and perhaps the shortest way to Namibia's independence would be for the MPLA to accept talks with UNITA. This would lead to a solution to the problem of the Angolan civil war. Cuban troops would no longer be needed. Those who claim to be the permanent

champions would be assured that the people of Namibia would accede to international sovereignty.

If the MPLA had not been an element which sold out to the interests of the Soviet Union, if it had not been a committed defender of the Soviet expansion in Africa, why does it not act in the same way its friend, President Kenneth Kaunda, acted after some clashes and encounters with South African troops on his territory? Acting in full sovereignty he sought out and pursued SWAPO guerrillas and expelled them. Kaunda did this so that he could dedicate his attention to his country's efforts to consolidate peace and promote the economic development of his territory.

Why does the MPLA want to turn the SWAPO cause into its own cause? Why does the MPLA want to turn the SWAPO question into a question of its own honor? Why does the MPLA believe that the civilian population should pay the highest price, while the South African forces are pursuing SWAPO without the MPLA government realizing that all African countries have freed themselves from the SWAPO question, leaving Angola to pay the highest price alone? Is it because of a lack of vision? No. it is because the MPLA is applying to the letter the instructions sent from Moscow, and these instructions are only sacrificing our people. The Angolan people do not get honor, pride, peace, courage, nor aknowledgement out of this fight, unless the MPLA individuals want to transform Angola into an African Lebanon, which all of us will pay for with our lives and blood — all for the SWAPO cause. We feel that the most enlightened elements of the MPLA, the Angolan patriots who are still on the other side of the fence in particular, and the Angolan people in general, must react against this imposition by the Soviet Union that Angola should keep and shelter SWAPO against our wishes.

We think that all peoples worldwide have a right to independence. They have the right to freely determine their destiny; the right to choose their rulers and the political systems which may lead to peace and material and spiritual well-being. However, we do not agree. We and the Angolan people should not accept that the SWAPO question should become a question of honor for Angola, while we know that every other African country has ceased to support SWAPO. Neighboring countries which could also provide logistical bases refuse to do so. Recently President Machel of Mozambique, an ally of the MPLA in the so-called Frontline, became aware of the dangers, realized his weaknesses, listened to the appeal of his own people, and is now trying a direct and frank dialogue with South Africa in order to enable his country and his government to dedicate themselves more and more to the solution of the problems facing the Mozambican people.

If SWAPO is a genuine liberation movement, if SWAPO has the support of the people in Namibia, why does SWAPO not enter Namibia? Since it has opted for an armed struggle, why does SWAPO not liberate territory and set up bases in Namibia with the backing of its own people? Why does SWAPO have to rely on the support of the Angolan people? Why does SWAPO shield itself behind children, hospitals, and women? When everything is destroyed by the bombs of the South African Air Force, the MPLA cries out, saying that all this is the result of the cruelty and massacres perpetrated by the South African forces. Does not this appear to be a sign of weakness and cowardice by SWAPO?

SWAPO soldiers, instead of fighting on their own territory in Namibia, where they have a right to seek the independence of their territory and people in accordance with their choice, are found in the fronts of Calucinga, Andulo, Malanje, Quibala, Calulo, Novo Redondo and Gabela fighting against UNITA forces. Are Calucinga, Andulo, Malanje, Quibala, Calulo, and Novo Redondo parts of the Namibian territory? Are our people being massacred by SWAPO in those areas enemies of the independence of Namibia? SWAPO and the MPLA are both instruments in the implementation of the Soviet policy in Africa. Our people have a right to ask and a right to get answers.

After 7 years of independence, our people cannot go on following policies which do not promise a bright future — policies which lead to impasses. SWAPO soldiers are massacring and robbing the people in the most northern provinces of our country. SWAPO has lost the honor of being a liberation movement. SWAPO has aligned itself with the MPLA on the side of the Cubans as internationalist mercenaries who want to impose systems and governments on the peoples of southern Africa, thereby negating the universally accepted principle of the right of peoples to freely determine their own destinies.

In the war to which it is tied and the very extensive fronts along which it has deployed its forces, SWAPO will only face defeat, because the cause for which it is fighting in Calucinga and in Quibala is not its cause. It is no longer a just cause. It is somebody else's cause, and this somebody is called the Soviet Union. The massacre of the Angolan people by SWAPO troops is no longer a just cause. It an unjust cause, and unjust wars have always been lost.

Among the various victories we won in 1983, we include the advance of our forces to the province of Cuanza Norte, to Malanje, the entry in force of our forces into Luanda Province, and the complete domination of the situation in Cuanza Sul. It is worth recalling the Cangamba battle — the Cangamba battle which completely confused the Cubans, Russian generals, Russian strategists, and the so-called experts on the African situation. This is also an opportunity to add that the chairman of the MPLA himself, Dos Santos, was also muddled. He did not accept that Impala jets had not supported [as heard] UNITA when his own Russian and Cuban mentors had informed him that Impala jets did not have the range to reach Cangamba, but he had already displayed his ignorance. The trouble is that the chairman of the MPLA has no knowledge of aircraft. The commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] does not know how battles are conducted. The ignorance had been displayed because the mistake by the FAPLA commander in chief was made at an international conference in Brazzaville under international gaze. Throughout military history there are defeats which confuse people. Cangamba was a defeat to FAPLA, the Cubans, and the Russians. To all those who acted in conjuction with the MPLA, Cangamba was a muddling battle, because it ended up confusing the chairman of the MPLA himself.

Why not recall the capture of foreigners of various nationalities who had to walk through a good number of the provinces of Angola. The Czechoslovaks, East Germans, West Germans, Portuguese, Brazilians, Argentinians, Uruguayans, French, Swiss, Spaniards, and Russians — who are the mastermind behind the game in Angola — have already been held captive in UNITA areas. Japanese, Italians, and many other nationals were seized. All these foreigners at various levels — some cooperating directly with the MPLA in the fight against UNITA and others unconscientiously serving the MPLA administration against the Angola people — had been previously warned to abandon the war zones and advised to return to their home countries in peace. They did not heed our appeal and, as a result, they had to walk long distances — pitiful walks. They observed our organization and strength. They are now singing praise of our discipline in their own countries. It might have much more practical for them and us if they had returned to their home countries instead of deciding to become martyrs and heroes by being forced to walk through the Angolan bush. This imposes unnecessary sacrifices on us. It would be better for all of us if the foreigners would abandon the war zones.

Through this address, I am repeating the appeal of the UNITA Central Committee. The foreigners who are in Angola must abandon the national territory until such time when peace returns to our country, when they can come back to make a true contribution to Angola's reconstruction. Today, all the foreigners who are with the MPLA, regardless of their missions, are conniving collaborators of the MPLA. They are not doing this at our people's request.

UNITA does not accept any explanation for the continued presence of foreigners in war zones. This will one day lead the Central Committee to revise its position on those taken captive while present in war zones against our wishes. We could give guarantees to religious people and members of international and welfare organizations that we shall not attack them. However, in a war situation there are only two lines — UNITA's battle positions and those of the MPLA. When we are clashing with the enemy; when we are attacking to seize a position; when we are trying to wipe out an enemy detachment; and when our forces want to cripple a communications center, we never see notices saying this group in that position is protected by civilians. We only find civilians protected by armed men who are either Cubans or FAPLA or the People's Defense Organization [ODP]. I want to stress here that even when our men do not intend to attack the enemy's entrenched positions, our men have always been fired on. I am now posing a question to your conscience: As we are at war and the MPLA is being intransigent in negotiating the end of the war; the Cubans are continuing to fire on us and killing us; and the Angolan people are defending themselves through UNITA, how can humanity be practiced on the battlefronts? How can we know a man who wishes us well from the one who wishes to bring us trouble when the man who wishes us well is being protected by ODP, Cuban, and FAPLA arms? There is still time for foreigners who are in Lunda, Malanje, and Cuanza Norte, Luanda, Uige, Zaire, and Cabinda to freely leave our country; and when our liberation struggle is over, they will be able to return to Angola and be free to honestly contribute toward national reconstruction.

In our victories we also include the total liberation of Cazombo strip. This accordingly completed the plan for the liberation of Moxico Province. Cangamba benumbed the minds of the FAPLA commanders and those of the Cuban and Russian strategists. After Cangamba there was no other possible target apart from Cazombo. The enemy forces at Cazombo, (Kazungo), (Jimbe), Cainda, Lumbala, (Caquengue) and Caripande were poorly equipped. The MPLA forces had no food, clothes, or shoes. When these forces instinctively perceived that they were about to be attacked and that they would be the next target, they cried loudly to their commanding officers in Luso and Luanda.

The events at Luanda and Luso reflected the same old incapacity to act and paralysis of minds found in men who are conducting a war poorly. There was no resistance and UNITA is at this moment controlling the territory and the people in the areas of Cazombo. Thus, we concluded the plan for the total liberation of the border between Angola and Zambia. This an event which will have repercussions for our relations with the Zambia Government. We are less bothered about whether the Zambian Government wants to maintain diplomatic relations with Luanda, and at the same time, find a modus vivendi with UNITA in the area, because the population on the Zambian side depends on fishing in Angolan rivers. This a new front which we opened and which constitutes a great victory for us.

The visits to the free land of Angola by foreign journalists, businessmen, and European parliamentarians, who received a true picture of our liberation effort and who gave a precise account of our desire to be free, as well as noticed our capacity for organization and our right to form a government, are further signs of the progress of our struggle.

The penetration of our forces into Lunda Province and the control of positions in Lunda are all actions designed to paralyze the exploitation of diamonds by mercenaries — either from the East or the West — who have illegally grabbed the wealth of the people. Like a hurricane, UNITA is now advancing toward Lunda in order to prevent the wealth of the people from being looted by foreigners.

Another gain worth mentioning was the acceptance by the international press of the role played by UNITA. No one — not even the enemy — ignores the fact that UNITA is an indestructible factor and that nothing can be done in southern Africa today, tomorrow, or ever without the participation of UNITA.

The fallacious and fraudulent communiques fabricated by the MPLA are rarely published by the international press. However, UNITA communiques are balanced, precise, and opportune, and manage to be published readily, because UNITA allows observers from the international free press to visit our areas, prisoners — even FAPLA prisoners — and adminstrative work, because we have nothing to hide. On the other side of the barricade everything is secret, because everything is a lie.

In a few words I have tried to assess for you, fellow Angolans, the year 1983. For us it was the year of the greatest victories. I would like to ask: What has 1983 been for the MPLA-Labor Party? It was a year of sackings, dismissals, charges of theft and embezzlement, detentions of men of literature, defection of

cadres from Angola abroad, a greater domination of the MPLA by foreigners, intrigue, delays and uncertainty, defeats, desertions from the MPLA ranks, continued change of command at regional and unit levels, and the creation of military councils which conflict with the command units of the military regions. They fight each other, thus paralyzing ODP and FAPLA. Exceptional powers are granted to the president, yet he did not do anything exceptional, a clear warning that no one should go south of the 10th parallel and that foreigners could not travel 15 km beyond Luanda. In a nutshell, the admission of defeats and lies.

What do we want to achieve in 1984, the year of the anti-Cuban patriotic front?

Fellow Angolans, comrades in arms and UNITA militants: The organs of leadership must pay greater attention to study, so that you can know the Angolan reality in its many forms of expression. Only by doing so will we be able to unite the particular with the general and achieve unity of thought with unity of action. Only in doing so will we be able to achieve unity for the Angolan people from their own individuality and feelings. We must improve the work methods by always seeking to serve the majority of the people and soldiers. We must seek to gain control of the terrain and to gain more enemy terrain every day. We must also gain control of the administration. It is not enough to liberate enemy territory. It is necessary that we be able to administer that territory, which includes people who have a way of life and needs that the party must satisfy. We must see that time marches according to our plans, through our own action. We must mobilize all the Angolan people against the Cuban presence and foreign domination. The cadres, who are responsible for the mobilization of the people, must be careful not to molest the civilian population who live on the side of the MPLA. All the Angolan people have become aware of oppression, and they frequently lack the strngth to be able to express themselves. Therefore, the cadres must at all costs avoid making those who have been abducted by the MPLA victims of our actions. Wherever we can, after repelling occupation forces, the cadres must distribute the property that they find to the local residents.

The military and political command units must learn how to efficiently coordinate the political effort with the military effort. The combat is neither political nor military alone; it is political and military.

Cadres must avoid divisions by giving priority to a number of actions. The military actions are fulfilled through political actions. Political actions only have meaning through military actions.

The military commanders must seek to efficiently coordinate the regular forces, irregular forces, guerrilla forces, and sentries, because in doing so we can take greater advantage of the situation. These commanders must also conduct a continuing study of the enemy's movements and its tactics in order to exploit its mistakes.

We must look after agriculture not only by producing but also defending what has been planted and stored away, because the enemy destroys food in desperation so that weakened people and soldiers cannot fight.

We must take every precaution against the enemy's air force. As the ground force of Cubans, FAPLA, and ODP has been completely beaten, the Russians have no alternative other than the abusive use of the air force. Our soldiers must protect the civilian population. The civilian population must be instructed not to make smoke. In order to escape the air force they must know the appropriate guerrilla techniques for avoiding presenting targets to the enemy. In this way the enemy will not inflict further casualties before h's defeat. In all fronts and places the soldiers must always fire at foreign and enemy airplanes whenever they appear in the skies. There is no better protection than to fire at the enemy airplanes.

The party leadership organizations must take of the cadres. The cadres are the only people who can permit the implementation of the leadership programs.

We must all mobilize ourselves to destroy what remains of the enemy economy. We must penetrate the still viable economic zones and capture foreigners. UNITA must penetrate the diamond zones, the oil zones, and the coffee areas. This year must witness the frustration of the ambitions of the foreigners to plunder our resources and support the MPLA. Special commandos must make efforts to penetrate residential areas in Luanda and begin fighting in those residential areas. The hour is one of sacrifice, because this is an hour of victory. Now let us carry on bacause the world is already acknowledging the justness of our actions.

If the MPLA wants to talk with us, we are at their disposal; otherwise, the watchword is fighting and more fighting. To soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers, the commands of the strategic fronts, the commands of the fronts, the commanders of units, what you are listening to at this moment is not only the voice of command, but also the voice of a disciplined soldier. Let us complete the historic mission which the Angolan people have entrusted to us. Let us agree to make the last sacrifice. The Angolan people will be immensely grateful to us, and the world is already admiring your bravery.

To all the Angolan people, this is an hour of choice and decision. Either you come over to us so that we may build a lasting victory, or you remain on the other side of the fence and lose forever. This is an appeal for 1984, and your choice must be made in 1984, or it will be too late. As I have said, because of what we saw in 1983 and because of what we expect in 1984, I am convinced that through your hands the Angolan fatherland will be saved. May God protect our country.

MOZAMBIQUE

Sofala Leader Outlines Tasks of Local Militia

MB160803 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The political leader of Mozambique's Sofala Province, Marcelino dos Santos, has said in Beira that the immediate task of the local people's militia this year is to clear the province of armed bandits. Mr dos Santos, who is a member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, recalled President Samora Machel's New

Year's message to the nation that 1984 should see an end to the South African-backed bandits. Mr dos Santos was speaking at the close of a course of military and political training for Sofala workers, and more such courses will be held for workers to prepare them to deal with armed bandits.

SOUTH AFRICA

'Top-Level' Talks With Mozambique Planned 16 Jan

MB091753 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1744 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Jan 9, SAPA — Top-level South African Government representatives will meet their Mozambican counterparts next week to discuss security, tourism and financial relations between the two countries, the minister of foreign affeirs, Mr Pik Botha, said from Pretoria tonight. A statement issued on Mr Botha's behalf said the talks, to start on January 16 in Pretoria and Maputo, were the outcome of the ministerial meeting between the two countries in Swaziland last month. Besides security, tourism and economic matters, the representatives, in four working groups, would review the state of the Cahora-Bassa hydro-electric project.

Mr Botha said the working group concerned with security was to propose "practical ways and means of eliminating all forms of subversion and violence" and "a mechanism by which this process can be effectively implemented and monitored." The security team will be chaired by General J. Coetzee, commissioner of the South African Police, and its members will include Dr J.P. Roux, secretary-general of the Office of the Prime Minister, and General A.J. van Deventer, secretary of the State Security Council.

The economic negotiating team will be headed by Mr J. Van Dalsen, director-general of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and will include representatives from the Departments of Transport Services, Manpower, Mineral and Energy Affairs, Agriculture, Enviromental Affairs, and Industries and Commerce. No objective was stated for the economic negotiating team.

Mr Botha said the aim of the team discussing the Cabora-Bassa project would be "to review the existing agreement in the light of current circumstances." His statement did not elaborate. The South African team concerned with the project will be headed by the director-general of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Dr S.J. Du Plessis, and will include representatives from ECOM and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Finance.

The fourth group, to be headed by Mr D.J. Hough, chairman of the South African Tourism Board, has as its objective to attempt reestablishing tourism links between South Africa and Mozambique.

Ambassador Announces Troop Withdrawal to UN

MB091846 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Text] The announcement by the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, that South Africa had achieved its objective in southern Angola and that its troops were being withdrawn was handed over to the secretary general of the United Nations today by the South African ambassador to the UN, Mr Kurt von Schirnding. The Department of Foreign Affairs has also confirmed in Pretoria that the contents of two statements by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, had also been conveyed to the secretary general, Dr Perez de Cuellar.

In his statements at the weekend, Mr Botha said among other things that South Africa would not oppose direct talks between SWAPO and the administrator-general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, and also that South Africa rejected the Security Council resolution adopted last Friday as a decision that would promote violence.

The statement issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs today said that Dr de Cuellar had received renewed assurances that South Africa's offer of a cease-fire from 31 January still stood, and that SWAPO could accept the offer by indicating that it would not exploit the cease-fire. Dr de Cuellar has to report to the Security Council tomorrow on progress made in the implementation of the Security Council resolution that South Africa should withdraw from southern Angola.

Inclusion of Namibian Parties in Talks Seen Necessary

MB100524 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 9 Jan 84

[Station commentary: "South Africa's Point of View *vis-a-vis* Angola"]

[Text] Following the Security Council vote condemning South Africa for its military strike against SWAPO in southern Angola, South Africa's point of view should be outlined, as it was in the Security Council on 4 January. Its ambassador to the United Nations, Mr von Schirnding, said — and these were his words — South African security operations in southern Angola have but a single objective: the protection of the inhabitants of South-West Africa/Namibia from SWAPO terrorist attacks launched from Angolan territory. South Africa has stated on innumberable occasions that it will not sit idly by while SWAPO operates with impunity from the safety of Angolan territory, from where they plan and execute their acts of murder and pillage against the civilians of the territory of South-West Africa/Namibia.

Mr Von Schirnding also made it clear that if the Luanda regime is so concerned with the threat to peace and security in the region, it should take the necessary steps to ensure that its territory is not used for the launching of aggression against its neighbors. Now, the South African foreign minister, Mr R.F. Botha, has stated that the South African Government reconfirms its standpoint that it will continue to act against any terrorist organization which is bent on determining the future of South-

West Africa/Namibia with violent means. The minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, has pointed out that the dispute over the territory of South-West Africa/Namibia should be resolved by negotiation rather than by military force. The Angolan Government, he said, apparently realizes the seriousness of the situation, and that will stop it protecting and actively assisting terrorists to carry out their plans of murder and crime against the local population of South-West Africa.

Lastly, the South African point of view regarding negotiations with SWAPO has also been made clear by Mr R.F. Botha. South Africa would not object to direct talks between SWAPO and a delegation headed by the adminstrator-general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie Van Niekerk. Such a delegation would probably include members of the democratically elected parties of South-West Africa/Namibia. These parties, South Africa insists, are central to the dispute and must be involved in discussions concerning the future of the territory.

Paper Calls for RSA Withdrawal From Namibia

MB091140 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 9 Jan 84 p 12

[Editorial: "Let's Get Out of SWA"]

[Text] Events to do with South-West Africa/Namibia are tumbling over each other...South Africa's offer last month of a cease-fire, Angola's initial rejection and then its counter-offer, SWAPO's offer of a cease-fire, Russia's threat to South Africa, and South Africa's onslaught 300 km into Angola. Finally this weekend there has been the United Nations Security Council demand that South Africa withdraw from Angola followed, whether coincidentally or consequentially, by the announcement that our soldiers are indeed pulling back.

It is easy to get lost in trying to pick one's way through this maze of swift-moving developments and verbal broadsides. But there need not be confusion. The essential point to bear in mind is that there should not be continuing South African rule in Namibia.

Our government has repeatedly committed itself to this principle. In addition, our presence there has been deemed to be wrong in international law; we face repeated demands from the world to get out, with the threat of sanctions arising regularly; there is every indication that the majority of the people of Namibia do not want us.

Yet we remain, with no choice but to apply force to maintain our rule, and while also inflicting apartheid on the people of Namibia despite — or perhaps because of — the cost to them in divisiveness, financial waste and corruption.

Because we cannot seal off Namibia's northern border we are driven to going deep into Angola. Our young men are dying hundreds of kilometres inside that country.

What is it all for? The government would have us believe that it is a holy fight to stem the tide of communism. But that does not stand up to scrutiny. The chief reason the Cubans have been in Angola these past few years has been because of Luanda's fear of a South African invasion: Our continuing presence in the country only adds to the desire of the Angolan Government to have them there (apart from the current anxieties caused by the apparent growth of UNITA). Now, with escalation of the conflict, there is every danger of the Soviet Union being sucked in more heavily and directly.

We are actually promoting the entry of communism into the subcontinent, not retarding it.

The same applies inside Namibia itself: We are helping to radicalise SWAPO, and to push it more and more into the arms of the Soviet bloc countries by making it ever more dependent on them.

It is time to take a deep breath and to look afresh at our involvement in Angola and Namibia. We need to reexamine the correctness of sheltering behind the Cubans as a reason for delaying progress towards an independent Namibia. It is an issue elevated by the Reagan adminstration into a principle in the hope of gaining a foreign victory success through solving it and bears little relation to the specific needs of Namibia.

Let's get away from it. Let's remember that we must, sooner or later, live alongside the people of Namibia as neighbours. Let's get the independence process going, sincerely and without quibbling.

ZAMBIA

Official Denies Soldiers Detained by Zaire

MB100924 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] The secretary of state for defense and security, Mr Grey Zulu, yesterday refuted reports that two Zambian soldiers had been detained by the Zairean authorities at Mukambo border post.

According to information available to Copperbelt Central Committee member Alex Shapi, the incident only involved (?three) civilians who had strayed into Zaire last Friday, of which two have since been released. Mr Shapi has, however, warned villagers living along the border with Zaire against straying into the bush near the boundary as the areas was sensitive. A Ministry of Defense spokesman also refuted the report of the detention of the two Zambian soldiers yesterday.